

Table of international exchange rates for various countries including Hong Kong, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,620

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Michael Collins: hero or traitor?

The return of Michael Collins

G2 with European weather

Caroline Sullivan meets Lady Alice and Mella

The aristocrat and the armed robber

G2 pages 4/5

OnLine

A byte at the opera

G2, pages 10/11

Libel jury clean bowls 'astonished' Botham



Imran Khan and his wife, Jemima, leaving the High Court yesterday after the jury held he had not libelled former England cricketers Botham and Lamb. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Matthew Engel reports on a second defeat, before the High Court, for English cricket

THE cricketing celebrity Ian Botham was last night facing, if not quite ruin, then at least a severe blow to his former Pakistan captain Imran Khan.



'How can one regret it? I fought for my dignity and honesty... But life goes on. I will just have to do a couple more roadshows to pay for it.'

Ian Botham



'I tried to clear my name, and this is what you get. It is going to leave a cloud but you have to accept what the jury say, but I'm astonished by the jury'

Allan Lamb

Botham said he was "astonished" by the verdict, a view shared by many observers. Speculation during the jury's 4 1/2 hour deliberation centred only on the damages award.

making his final speech on Imran's behalf. The implications for cricket are uncertain, though Pakistani players may now have enhanced respect for English decision-making, and it may help ensure that the rest of this summer's Test series is harmonious.

Goldsmith's daughter Jemima Botham and Lamb, observing the best cricketing traditions, accepted the umpire's decision with as much grace as they could manage and Botham said he would just have to go back to his roadshow to raise the cash.

no jacket, a shirt with a sponsor's name and carrying a boot whose significance the judge never allowed him to explain.

ing sense of the absurd. Imran's attempts to prove Botham had cheated by picking the seam or gouging a cricket ball failed utterly when his videos from 14-year-old Test matches purporting to prove this were adopted by Botham's own counsel, Charles Gray QC, and clearly showed him manipulating, quite legally, a ball that had gone out of shape.

Cherie relishes new role in blitz of big ideas, bikers, faxes — and knitting patterns

IT COULD hardly be more New Labour, with articles on How To Lay Your Own Patio and Secrets Of A Herb Garden. But Britain's top-selling women's magazine has

come even more ideologically correct when the guest editor took her chair. Cherie Booth, barrister wife of Labour leader Tony Blair, has helped to edit October's 10th birthday edition of Prima, the knitting and cooking journal, and contributed

to the design of a sweater. She was "absolutely amazing," said Lindsay Nicholson, full-time editor of the magazine, which does not forget its less fortunate readers. The August issue has pieces entitled My Hair Fell Out At 13 and Family Days Out Under £15.

"She'd pop into our offices straight from court, then go to meetings with clients," said Ms Nicholson. "We were in constant contact and she'd regularly fax and bike over pictures and suggestions."

Pressed on whether Ms Booth might have a promising future in publishing, Ms Nicholson said: "She'd make a better editor than I would a lawyer. Working with her was a very humbling experience. She made lots of very practical suggestions."

Inside section with sub-headers: Britain, World News, Finance, Sport. Includes brief news items and a barcode.

Ministers disown MPs who oppose handgun ban

Alan Travis and John Arlidge

MINISTERS and the police last night moved to disown six Conservative MPs who came out against a ban on the private ownership of handguns in the wake of the Dunblane massacre.



ton), David Ashby (Leicestershire NW), Walter Sweeney (Vale of Glamorgan), Dame Jill Knight (Edgbaston), Warren Hawkinsley (Halesowen and Stourbridge) and John Greenway (Ryedale) — were inundated with protests after the Sun newspaper printed their telephone numbers.

Mr Greenway, a former police officer, explained their decision: "The Association of Chief Police Officers said a ban would be impractical. The Police Superintendents' Association told us it would be a serious restriction of civil liberties. We took the view that it is not legally held firearms that cause the problem in this country. It is the way that firearms certificates are issued where the law needs to be strengthened."

But Jim Sharples, Merseyside Chief Constable and Acco spokesman, disowned Mr Greenway's argument, saying that although Acco had said "a total prohibition of handguns would be impractical", it went on to back a prohibition on all but the 10 per cent of handguns which were used in

The Guardian International Umbrella advertisement. Includes an image of the umbrella and text: 'Protect yourself from the elements with the stylish Guardian International umbrella.'

This large blue and white golfing umbrella features a fox frame and wooden handle, £19.50. Price includes postage, packing and handling charges.

Order form for the umbrella. Includes fields for name, address, postcode, country, and a section for payment details (cheque, credit card, or debit card).

Providing equal opportunities

PL4 BAA

Police confirm Centennial Park security guard who raised alarm is the key suspect in Atlanta blast

FBI scours the home of Olympics bomb 'hero'

John Duncan in Atlanta

THE lawyer representing Richard Jewell, the security guard at the centre of the FBI's investigation into the Olympic Centennial Park bombing, yesterday conceded that his client was a key suspect in the case.

Federal agents moved into Mr Jewell's apartment during the day to begin an intensive search.

"If they are searching the place then he is a suspect," the lawyer, Watson Bryant, said after three police officers were let into the flat by Mr Jewell's mother.

Mr Jewell was hailed as a hero after he alerted police to a knapsack containing the pipe bomb packed with screws and nails at Centennial Park, where the blast spread blood and terror at a packed rock concert.

Yesterday, FBI and ATF (Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms) agents backed up by a bomb-sniffing dog, combed the flat and also took away Mr Jewell's blue pick-up truck for forensic examination.

Several boxes were taken away from the flat, along with what seemed to be laundry in a clear plastic bag.

It appeared that further "evidence" was going to be removed from the flat during late afternoon.

A white van was stationed outside the door to Mr Jewell's apartment, with its rear doors open. Officers also erected a tent to protect evidence from a rainstorm.

At the outset of the search, residents of the apartment block and nearby buildings, including a woman in a bathrobe with three small children, were evacuated hurriedly by FBI men in blue fatigues.

At one point most of the agents came out while the bomb-sniffing dog checked the apartment.

The FBI spokesman at the scene, David Tubbs, said the agency had a search warrant. But he stressed that the investigation was continuing.

Mr Jewell has not been placed under arrest and he has not been charged with any crime.

"We emphasise that neither the issuance of a search warrant nor the execution of it constitutes evidence of guilt."

A search warrant is an order of the court to search a particular location to determine if relevant evidence is present.

Since the weekend attack, the FBI has gone through a list of many potential suspects and eliminated them in the hunt for the man responsible.

Mr Jewell, who says he is innocent, sat outside on an iron staircase, his back to the many cameramen and journalists nearby, and his head in his hands.

During the search, with which the suspect co-operated fully, according to the police, Mr Jewell was accompanied at all times by his lawyer.

Asked how Mr Jewell felt, his lawyer said: "He wants it over with. Search the place, look at it, find nothing, get out of my life."

Mr Jewell, a former police officer, worked at the park as a security man for the AT&T telecommunications company which has a pavilion in the entertainment area.

Mr Bryant said on Tuesday: "Richard had nothing whatsoever to do with planting that bomb. He had nothing to do with the bomb at all except being a hero by finding it, then getting people out of the way."

Before Tuesday, the FBI investigation had apparently focused on a white American male who made a warning call from a nearby public phone 15 minutes before the bomb detonated.

Mr Bryant said on Tuesday: "Richard had nothing whatsoever to do with planting that bomb. He had nothing to do with the bomb at all except being a hero by finding it, then getting people out of the way."



Richard Jewell, the Centennial Park security guard at the centre of the Atlanta bombing investigation. He says he was not involved

Scots air fury at McJock insults

John Arledge

NOT since Butcher Cumberland laid waste to Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces at Culloden 250 years ago has an Englishman excited such Highland wrath.

Chris Evans, the millionaire Radio One presenter who abandoned London to present his breakfast show from Inverness this week, has been condemned as "a fly-by-night, willy-waving, lager lout posturing, English flash Harry".

After just three days north of the border the creator of the television show, TFI Friday, has offended most of the local population, including his BBC colleagues. He has ridiculed farmers as "sheep shearer" and poked fun at financially-challenged local broadcasters and described the Highlands as a land of "rigs and pigs" where he hoped to "meet some tartan tottle and show them my tan-shedder".

Normally phlegmatic Invernessians, crofters and rival DJs are so outraged by the supercilious "sooth-mooth" in their midst that they are campaigning to send a homebrewed "dry" have launched a fund-raising campaign via the Internet to fly Evans and his "zoo of sycophantic performing puppy cohorts" back to London.

Evans, who has just negotiated a \$50,000 pay rise with the BBC, began his "Highland fling" on Monday by ridiculing the corporation's Highland headquarters as a "sheep pen ... I had to wind up the clockwork studio", he told his 7.5 million listeners.

In his best McJock accent, the new laird of the airwaves taunted his local breakfast-time rival, Tich McCooey of Moray Firth Radio, Britain's local radio station of the year. He was a has-been who earned \$10,000 a year less than Evans's research assistant, listeners heard.

Not to be outdone, McCooey, aged 40, abandoned the Highland capital and headed south to broadcast from London. His first guest? Evans's former girlfriend, Kim Wilde, who said she never listened to his Radio One show.

Yesterday Tom Morton, the BBC Scotland presenter and friend of McCooey, condemned his new studio neighbour as uncivilised. The "dishevelled and unshaven Chris" was undoubtedly "a genius at the pinnacle of his pulling power for cash and adulation". But his McJocks were "needless, unfunny and insulting, surfacing like broken glass on a polished beach".

Evans had been due to appear on the Tom Morton show yesterday but he pulled out at the last minute. Highlanders are hoping they have heard the last of him. But his spokeswoman confirmed he was "off looking to buy a castle".

Everyone goes for gold in Games' News Event media scrum

Sketch

John Duncan

THREE news station helicopters hovered over a small respectable block of flats, set in a forest clearing off Buford Highway yesterday, a nervous throng of 150 reporters and 36 camera crews below that this was a breaking story and that for 12 hours this had been the place to be.

Little was happening of course. The man it was all about - Richard Jewell, the security guard (set as a hero

for finding the Centennial Park bomb and now a prime suspect for planting it - sat on the wooden steps leading to his first floor apartment and waited, talking to his lawyer, while his home was searched.

Buford Highway, a neighbourhood named after the six lane highway that runs through it, is nothing special. The suburb itself is laid out along the road, petrol stations, a 12 screen multiplex, a Papa John's restaurant. Along the road woods hide apartment blocks. It had never seen a media circus like this. Twenty yards from the stairway where Jewell sat for three hours among the

FBI men - their shirts pronouncing their role, Evidence Technician, Emergency Response Unit - were cameras from around the world: a news Olympics, with news teams ready to explode into action as sparking as the opening ceremony of the real thing.

Chile was represented, as were Great Britain, Canada, French radio, Japanese radio, news agencies from everywhere, photographers too from all over, lenses trained like gun sights on the entrance to F Block of Jewell's Monaco Station apartment. The media marksmen waiting, chatting and joking, a convivial atmosphere that

everyone knew would be broken in an instant by Jewell's departure with the FBI.

The only impatience came from the crew of ECU, a Spanish language international news channel, whose reporters kept straying past an unmarked but well understood line on the tarmac. One whistle from a Bob Aliff, a world weary blue shirted Atlanta policeman, and they scampered off. Everyone else just waited. And waited.

The press had had Jewell in the autofocuses since Tuesday afternoon when the Atlanta Journal printed a special edition with the revelation, unofficial and unsubstantiated at the time, that he

was a prime suspect for the FBI. Since then they have been proved right.

But while Jewell has not been charged or brought to court, is this not something of a trial by media? This is not an issue here. "There is a court of law where you are innocent until proven guilty," said Paul Crawley, a television news reporter for Channel 11, the local NBC station. "And one just outside to follow the car if the FBI take him in. We have pulled in crews from Florida, from Boston, from the network centre and all around."

Crawley too has hardly slept since the bomb. "We were working 13 hours on, 12 hours off before the explosion and I had come off shift 15 minutes before the blast and then got called back in."

The media had to be at the flat, it's the job. But Carlos Zapata didn't. A local resident, Zapata hung around with a group of other neighbours watching from behind the screen. The atmosphere was more beach barbecue than news story. He had even brought a camera. "I really want to have this photo, to show everybody, show my kids."

Whimsical, but not artless

Review

Adam Sweeting

Ron Sexsmith

THE comment from Elvis Costello that he has been playing Ron Sexsmith's debut album all year "and you could be listening to it for another 20" inevitably ended up plastered all over the promotional literature for Ron's South Bank showcase.

Ron's album is indeed a little treasure. His songs seem to have a lovable artlessness about them, as if they were puppies scampering up to have their ears tickled. The words are a mixture of melancholy, drollness and wonderment, sung by Sexsmith with ragged charm. He's keen not to be filed under "New Folk Revival" or some similar brainless pseudo-genre.

"There are folk elements in my music but if I played my songs on piano instead of guitar, you wouldn't even think of the word," he claims. "You'd think 'pop music'."

Agreeable as the album is, it doesn't quite capture the whimsical charm of Sexsmith's live act, for which Sexsmith is accompanied by bassman Bill Bonk and drummer Don Kerr. This act is not quite as shambolic as it seems.

Sexsmith has spent years gigging around the clubs of his Canadian homeland, and the slight hesitancy of his thumb-picked guitar playing can't mask the fact that he's really pretty slick. His voice, too, has considerable range and expression, though the way it wobbles around notes before landing on them disguises it.

Secret Heart and Speaking with the Angel stood out among the familiar material, while the best of a batch of new songs was a plaintive ballad played solo, its powerful melody ably supported by some crafty chord work. Maybe he should drop the Gordon Lightfoot covers if he really wants to dodge that "folk" tag, though pigeonholers would have been confounded by his thunderous encore of Stevie Wonder's I Was Made to Love Her. This guy has a future.

Six Tory MPs block ban on handguns

continued from page 1

lawful sporting activities, were single shot and had a calibre of less than .22.

David Mellor, the former Home Office minister, said the decision of the six MPs raised the prospect of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, having to rely on Labour to get a handgun ban through the Commons when it votes on the issue in November.

"I am very disappointed that it should now appear that the Conservative Party has set its face against this change. It is profoundly damaging. I think the Labour Party is outbanking us on law and order and there is a serious danger now of the Conservative Party at all levels losing the plot on this very serious matter."

US keeps faith with Thatcher as family chapel is rebuilt in Kansas

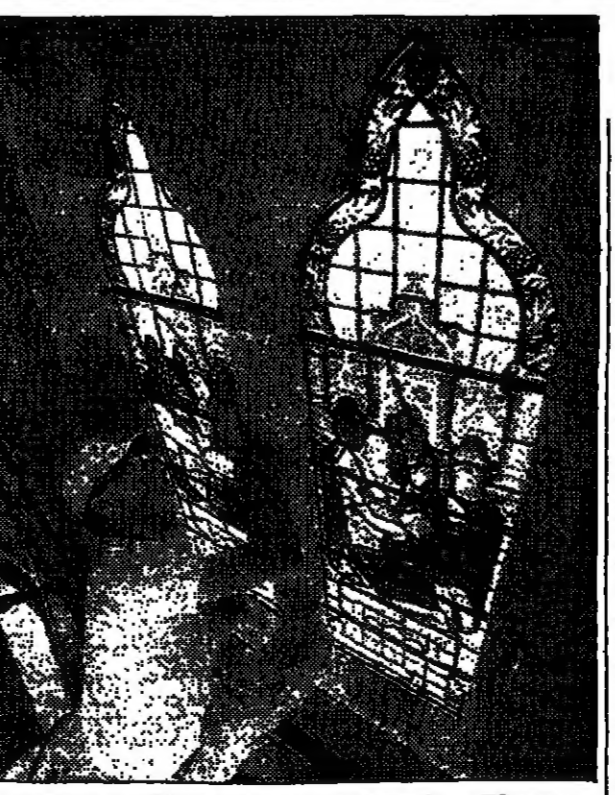
Ian Katz in New York

LONDON Bridge spans an Arizona lake. The Queen Mary floats off Long Beach, California. Now a small piece of Thatcherism is rising from the Kansas prairies.

On the campus of Baker University in the tiny Kansas town of Baldwin City, craftsmen are meticulously reconstructing the Victorian Methodist chapel where Baroness Thatcher's father preached.

The Gothic revival chapel that stood for 132 years in the Leicestershire village of Sproxtton, not far from the Thatcher home in Grantham, was dismantled and shipped to the United States in 198 sawdust-lined crates.

In October Baroness Thatcher is to attend a re-dedication ceremony at the Methodist university for the 57th-high ironstone structure. Although the former prime minister is widely revered in the US, the university insists it did not select the chapel because of its tenuous connection to her.



A window is refitted at the chapel's new site, a US campus

AUGUST 1ST. BRUCKNER'S 2ND. BRUCKNER'S CENTENARY IS MARKED BY A CELEBRATION OF HIS RARELY-HEARD SECOND SYMPHONY. TONIGHT AT 7:30PM. EVERY NIGHT OF THE PROMS IS LIVE ON RADIO 3.

MPS re... [Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off]

Foreign Office urged to halt detrimental reforms to the World Service and tell BBC to consult s

MPs rebuke 'cavalier' Birt

Andrew Gull and Rebecca Smithers

John Birt, the BBC's director general, was accused yesterday of misjudgment and adopting a cavalier attitude over planned changes to the World Service in a critical report by an influential committee of MPs.

The report said Mr Birt — accused a fortnight ago by one MP as behaving like a "kind of bar" — was guilty of misjudgment in failing to involve World Service management and the Foreign Office. "Ministers should not simply accept that these changes will be for the good, particularly given the BBC's cavalier attitude to consultation to date," it said. "The manner in which these proposals appear to have been conceived — in some secrecy — and the apparent lack of consultation is ... regrettable as it may have exacerbated staff opposition to the changes."

It appealed to Mr Birt to work out open-minded consultations with all staff. David Howell, Conservative MP for Guildford and chairman of the committee, said he viewed new World Service appointments made by the BBC "with a little unease". But he said MPs respected the right of Mr Birt to press on with overhauling the general BBC structure. "But as far as these changes affect the World Service, and the use of a huge grant-in-aid, we want to be reassured that these matters are not all settled and already set in concrete. We shall be on our guard to ensure that remains the position."

Last week Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, ordered Sir Christopher Blundell, the BBC chairman, to set up a Joint BBC/Foreign Office working group to report in October on the plan to integrate production of the World Service's news and English language programmes with the BBC's domestic departments.

Yesterday, in a letter to Mr Howell, Mr Rifkind said: "There is no doubt that Sir Christopher and Mr Birt have been impressed by parliamentary and public reaction ... to their restructuring proposals, and the manner in which they were presented. The pressure from both Houses of Parliament, in particular the committee, the views of members of past and present BBC employees, and a high level of media interest have brought home to the BBC the widespread concern that the quality of the World Service should not be put at risk."

David Sumbay, Conservative MP for Sugg South, said: "I would like some assurance that the changes aren't proceeding willy-nilly. We have to ensure we have further input before this thing becomes something we can't change back."

Main points

- BBC attitude to consultation "cavalier". Ministers should not simply accept changes are for the good.
- Failure to involve World Service management or Foreign Office in restructuring "a misjudgment".
- BBC management should hold detailed, open-minded consultation with staff. Director-general asked to report regularly to MPs.
- National Audit Office should investigate costs and benefits of changes.
- Maintaining service's international primacy is a fundamental obligation of the BBC and Government.

Former minister likely to inherit peerage from man who 'rollicked in deceit like a pig'



Filipino wives lose out as Moynihan promises to end legacy of disgrace

John Ezard reports on third baron's trail of lies, forgery and deception

The former Tory minister, Colin Moynihan, walked victorious from the High Court yesterday, declaring himself likely to inherit the family peerage and promising to wipe out the disgrace left by his brother-keeping relative, Lord Moynihan.

Outside court, Editha, a massage parlour owner, said she would have fresh DNA tests on Andrew. "He will always be my little baron."



Daniel and Jimna Moynihan yesterday. Top, Lord Moynihan (left) and half-brother Colin

Heirline splits and family rifts

Late Lord Moynihan, the Third Baron, heroin smuggler, bongo player, pimp, police informer, life-long swindler. Educated at Stowe, Coldstream Guards. Five wives, three daughters, two sons (percentage of one son disputed). Fled Britain in 1970 facing 57 prosecutions. Died 1991, aged 65. Mother: "Of the 38 ways of avoiding disaster, running away is the best."

Editha Eduarda Moynihan: Fourth wife, aged 36. Runs Flamingo Massage Parlour, Manila. Mother of would-be heir Andrew Moynihan, six, falsely declared dead in Moynihan's affidavit to divorce court. But Andrew is not Moynihan's son, according to DNA tests reported to court.

Editha Moynihan ... runs a Manila massage parlour

four for the savage slum landlord, Peter Rachman. "They had this big Alsatian dog that had been taught to soil the tenants' beds," he said.

The story is irresistible, and so English: the titled lady and the gamekeeper, except in this case he's actually an ex-army section commander who was invalidated out after a car crash. Distraught at the loss of the career he loved, he turned to crime.

G2 page 4

New issue OUT NOW!



"Hello, Kettering!"

... and Bristol, and Liverpool, and, indeed, anywhere that's witnessed one of the great live gigs ... from big crybaby **Johnnie Ray** at the legendary **Palladium Theatre, London**, April 1954 to **Oasis** at **Maine Road, Manchester**, April 1996. Accompany us on our odyssey through time, recalling the sweat-drenched, fists-in-the-air, multi-encore-eliciting **100 Greatest Gigs** of all time!

PLUS! Roger Daltrey gets one in the eye at **The Who's Hyde Park hoedown!** **Def Leppard** and **The Bluetones** manage to avoid each other in rock-mad Asia! Drink, depression and dirt-eating with **Boo Radleys!** Arrant sauciness in the company of **Garbage!**

AND! In the world's only indispensable album reviews section, we digest the month's essential LPs.

ALSO! Damon Albarn! Patti Smith! Suede! The Edinburgh Fringe! Reservoir Dog Chris Penn!



Q Out now! THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

MPs condemn acceptance of US firm's free trips

Oflot chief made 'serious errors'

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

PETER DAVIS, the National Lottery regulator, made "serious errors of judgment" in accepting seven free flights on corporate jets and helicopters owned by GTEch, an American company with a large stake in running the game, MPs said yesterday.

A highly critical report from the Commons public accounts committee says it "regards it of vital importance that the director general should be seen by the public to be completely impartial and at arm's length from the lottery operator, its shareholders and those with financial interests in them".

"In our view the director general's decisions to use GTEch corporate aircraft represented serious errors of judgment on his part."

The MPs were "unimpressed" by Mr Davis's argument that he had accepted the free flights only after he had announced his decision to award the licence to Camelot. "The director general has a continuing responsibility to regulate the lottery."

The committee — whose questioning exposed the free trips paid by GTEch for Mr Davis and his deputy, Diana Kahn — says the whole exercise was "unwise".

The committee also criticised Mr Davis's decision to accept hospitality from Carl Menges, head of a New York investment house with a 25 per cent stake in GTEch, in visiting his home in East Hampton, New York, in October 1994, although the friendship between Mr Davis's wife and the wife of Mr Menges predated the lottery.

The MPs said they had been concerned over doubts raised about GTEch's fitness to be involved in the lottery. These included suggestions of undesirable business practices by GTEch in obtaining lottery contracts in the US, including alleged corrupt payments in California and New Jersey.

Mr Davis said he had carried out intensive investigations and neither GTEch nor any of its officers had been charged with an offence.

MPs demanded Mr Davis take "a strong and active role" in ensuring propriety was observed. They welcomed the investigation into claims by Richard Branson, the Virgin Atlantic Airways chief, that Guy Snowden, co-chairman of GTEch, had tried to bribe him to withdraw his bid to run the lottery. An inquiry pronounced in favour of Mr Snowden.

Hospitality trips

Peter Davis's US itinerary in October 1994:

20 Oct: GTECH corporate jet from Austin, Texas, to Tallahassee, Florida. GTECH jet from Tallahassee to Atlanta, Georgia.
21 Oct: GTECH jet from Atlanta to New Jersey. GTECH helicopter from New Jersey to Manhattan, then on to New Hampton.
22 Oct: GTECH helicopter from New Hampton to Albany.
23 Oct: GTECH helicopter from Albany to New Hampton.
Other transport in hired cars paid for by GTECH.

ber 1994, although the friendship between Mr Davis's wife and the wife of Mr Menges predated the lottery.

The MPs said they had been concerned over doubts raised about GTEch's fitness to be involved in the lottery. These included suggestions of undesirable business practices by GTEch in obtaining lottery contracts in the US, including alleged corrupt payments in California and New Jersey.

Mr Davis said he had carried out intensive investigations and neither GTEch nor any of its officers had been charged with an offence.

MPs demanded Mr Davis take "a strong and active role" in ensuring propriety was observed. They welcomed the investigation into claims by Richard Branson, the Virgin Atlantic Airways chief, that Guy Snowden, co-chairman of GTEch, had tried to bribe him to withdraw his bid to run the lottery. An inquiry pronounced in favour of Mr Snowden.



PC Terry Johnson ready for the inevitable stink as the Titan Arum flower at Kew Gardens yesterday burst into bloom for the first time in 33 years. Its smell, caused when flowers at the base of the central spike are fertilised, has been likened to rotting flesh, fish and burnt sugar. PHOTOGRAPH: KIPPA MATTHEWS

Museums' hopes pinned to lottery

Maev Kennedy
Heritage Correspondent

THERE is a virtually glittering future for museums, with their catalogues, archives and reserve collections accessible through the Internet, and their buildings full of new attractions and visitors — provided the National Lottery pays for it.

The Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, predicted yesterday that museums would be transformed in the next decade by up to £500 million in lottery cash. She was speaking at the launch of Treasures In Trust, her department's first review of the role of museums since the 1980s.

Critics immediately pointed out that since lottery bids cannot be guaranteed success, the financial crisis and uncertain future of museums, hit by central and local authority cuts, will continue.

"All this new technology is welcome, but it could mean that British museum collections will be more accessible to people overseas, through the Internet, than the actual objects are to local people put off by admission charges and reduced opening hours," Maurice Davies, deputy director of the Museums Association, said.

Legislation will be introduced in the next parliamentary session to amend the terms for Heritage Lottery

fund grants. More money will go to towards museum information technology, as well as access, training and education projects including linking schools to museum collections by computer.

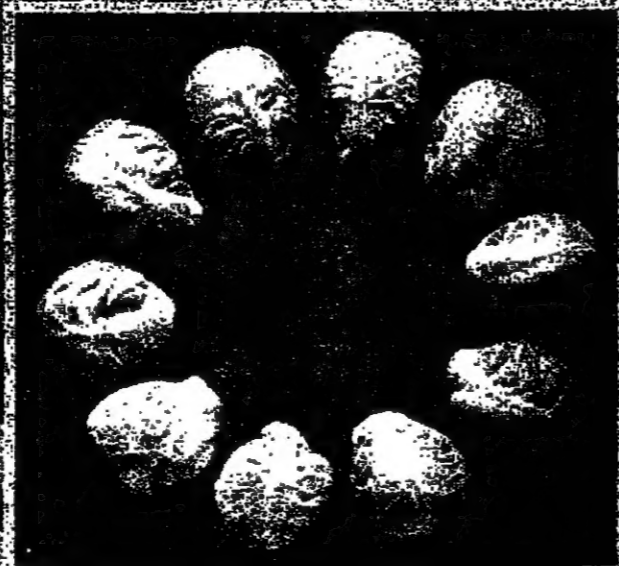
The museums sector pointed out that there is no hint of any increase in government funding. The review was originally promised more than two years ago. In the interim the Department of National Heritage budget, and the grants it passes on to heritage bodies, has been slashed, with further heavy cuts forecast.

The Heritage Lottery Fund is deciding a round of museum grants, but applications total more than £450 million, far more than available funds.

Lord Rothschild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said the proposed changes would encourage the Treasury to cut funding further, a fear echoed by the head of the Museums and Galleries Commission, James Joll, as well as the Museums Association and the Association of Independent Museums.

The review recommends designating up to 30 regional museums, almost all solely dependent on local authority support. There would be no central funds for these, but Mrs Bottomley hopes their designation would encourage business sponsorship, and increase their chances of successful lottery bids.

Keep them out of our BIER



Things used to be so simple. Vegetables were vegetables. London's red buses had room for one more on top and in Bremen, Beck's made a bier so lovingly consistent that it hadn't changed in over one hundred and twenty years.

But now we have Brussels. Well-meaning chaps, but perhaps a little over zealous? For the carrot is now deemed to be a fruit, the days of the double decker are numbered and, heaven forbid, they're even looking at the merits of standardising the way we brew our bier.

Imagine this. You are teasing yourself with an ice cold Beck's, a mere millimetre from your lips. You anticipate the melange of Hallertau hops and yeast combined with the purest glacial water from an ancient underground spring. Then, in sheer awe of the craftsmanship of the Bremen brewmasters, you succumb to temptation.

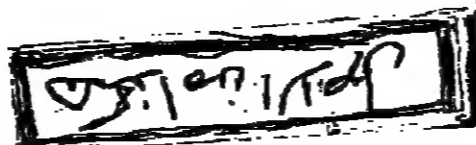
But your tastebuds tell you something is wrong. Your Beck's is not your Beck's. And if you know why. Because in their infatuation with Brussels, they have decreed that all bier must now be brewed with an inferior, standardised water.

Well, fear not, British friends. Because with your support and our dogged adherence to the Reinheitsgebot our brewer's purest water never found a drop of Brussels in a bottle of Beck's.

Yes, we salute Brussels' safety standards and respect their commitment to the environment. But when it comes to our bier, it's not Brussels we care about.



BREWED IN BREMEN GERMANY SINCE 1874



...ps blame World Serv

...and lady kille ... psychopatt

...orders and ... for time ...

...all news ... covers ... made prog

...ation

Renewing your home insurance in August or September?

If you are 50 or over, just see how much you could save with Saga - call us NOW

SAGA Home Insurance can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions.

The Saga Price Promise

If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out SAGA Home Insurance, we will refund you the difference.

SAGA Services Ltd

Help Services Ltd, FREEPOST 731
SAGA Services Ltd, Fulham, London SW3 2JZ
SAGA Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to these companies to enable them to do so

- Insurance cover is comprehensive and low cost.
- Discounts for home security.
- Free pen with your quotation.

Call us today

For your free no obligation quote simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on SAGA Home Insurance.

0800 414 525 ext.3755

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Failure to consult on changes was 'misjudgment'

MPs blame Birt for World Service row

Andrew Cull
Media Correspondent

YESTERDAY'S report from the Commons foreign affairs committee on the BBC World Service contains scathing criticism of the management style of director general John Birt and recommends open-minded consultation with staff on the planned changes to the service.

The committee expressed surprise that the Foreign Office and Sam Younger, World Service managing director, were only briefed on the restructuring the day before the announcement in June.

Mr Birt told the committee such lack of consultation was normal management practice, but the MPs said there was a crucial difference between the service and the rest of the BBC because of the £178 million grant-in-aid the service received from the FO's diplomatic wing in 1995/96.

"Not to involve either World Service management or the FO in the crucial decision to apply the restructuring to the service was, in our view, a misjudgment."

Mr Birt had told the committee that there would be consultations on how the changes were implemented. But the report said: "Ministers should not simply accept that these changes will be for the good, particularly given the BBC's cavalier attitude to consultation to date."

"This has been a difficult period for all at the World Service. Management/staff relations have been clearly put under pressure. We hope the management, helped in every capacity by senior BBC management, will use the next few months for detailed,



John Birt... management style criticised

open-minded consultation, involving staff at every level."

The committee said it would monitor developments and ask for regular written briefings after BBC/FO meetings. Mr Birt would be asked to give regular evidence to the committee as it monitors expenditure.

"We are concerned to ensure that the unique quality of the BBC World Service is not lost in a vast new super-structure within which its needs and priorities are overlooked (or even disregarded)," the report said.

It urged the National Audit Office to investigate the service's spending and assess the costs and benefits to the UK. The Campaign to Save the World Service had told MPs that the service's original programming was 28 per cent cheaper per hour than domestic network radio, its overheads were 44 per cent lower and production costs (studios, plus staff) 36 per cent lower.

Mr Birt was unable to confirm the figures, but the committee said the BBC and FO should consider the impact of

the changes on accounting for the grant-in-aid.

"The diplomatic wing must ensure that the pressure on grant-in-aid does not let restructuring lead to any diminution in the quality of the service. We are happy to see it become even more efficient."

The committee called for the reintroduction of a three-year financial planning system covering the main elements of expenditure.

The World Service had expressed disappointment over the breach of the triennial settlement for 1994-97 in last year's public expenditure settlement. Its immediate effect is a \$4.8 million cut in the 1996/97 capital budget, with further cuts in operating and capital budgets in the following year.

The report urged the service to identify ways of using Private Finance Initiative funding to meet its capital needs.

Foreign affairs committee, second report; Public expenditure: Spending plans of the FO and ODA 1995/97 to 1998/99; HMSO, £3.70.



Disease plan to save red squirrel

A DESIGNER disease to make grey squirrels impotent so their red cousins can make a comeback is being researched by scientists, writes Paul Bruen.

It is part of a government-backed campaign by nature conservation groups to halt the onward march of the imported grey squirrel which threatens the native red with extinction.

The virus would give grey squirrels a disease similar to a highly infectious cold from which they recover but which would leave them impotent. The disease would wipe out most of the grey squirrel population. Some individuals would prove resistant to the virus and the population would partly recover. Scientists believe the grey is less fussy in its diet, but also competes with the red for food.

The idea of squirrel disease contraceptive was one of a number of schemes revealed yesterday in the UK Strategy for Red Squirrel Conservation.

Even at a standstill, Toyota's new Paseo 4-seater coupé hints at life in the fast lane. And under the bonnet, there's a 16-valve, fuel-injected power plant that adds a dash to the open road. With power steering, electric windows, dual airbags, alarm/immobiliser, front seatbelt pretensioners and a 3-year/60,000-mile warranty, the Paseo starts at only £13,095* on the road (and, of course, so does the excitement). Or it goes from just £150 a month on Toyota Terms. For your nearest dealer, and to arrange a test drive, call 0800 777 555. When you can drive a sporty coupé for such a low monthly outlay, it's surprising how deceptive appearances can be.

Contrary to appearances, it makes your money go slowly.
The new Paseo, from £150 a month* APR 18.7%

PASEO ST - TYPICAL EXAMPLE						
Down payment (at the start)	Deposit	Balance financed	Period	Monthly payments	Total Guaranteed payment	Total Amount payable
£13,095	£200	£12,895	24 months	£493.66	£7,767	£15,862.09
						Charge for credit: £2,767.09**
						APR 18.7%

*Plus deposit and first payment. **Plus deposit and first payment.



THE NEW PASEO. THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

Landlady killed by psychopath

Christopher Elliott

A PSYCHOPATH who killed the estranged wife of a leading cancer scientist was yesterday ordered detained indefinitely at a high security hospital.

Richard Burton, aged 32, stabbed his landlady to death seven weeks after moving into her home in Leicester. Before he attacked her he sat on her stairs asking himself: "Do I or don't I?" Leicester crown court was told yesterday.

Janice Symons, 59, had taken in lodgers to make ends meet after her husband, Leicester university professor Martyn Symons, left her.

Burton, who also worked at Leicester university, admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility after experts agreed he had a severe psychopathic personality disorder.

Leicester health authority last night ordered an independent inquiry into the case, and revealed that he had been a "user of mental health services" in the town, but would not say what he had been treated for or for how long.

On May 11 last year Burton got up, fetched a knife from the kitchen and then sat on the stairs asking himself whether he should kill her. When Mrs Symons got up he followed her around the house before attacking her. As she struggled to escape he plunged the knife into her three times.

Frances Oldham QC, prosecuting, said that as Mrs Symons lay dying in the hallway Burton called an ambulance saying he had just killed his landlady. When detectives asked why he had killed her he said: "I don't know why. I just did."

James Hunt QC, defending, said five doctors agreed he suffered from a severe personality disorder which made him a risk to the public. One of them, Ian Wilson, said: "He's plainly a young man with a severe personality disorder but with superior intelligence."

Outside court the victim's cousin, Alex Kewley, said: "I am disgusted with the sentence. I believe he should have been jailed for life and never released."

"I don't believe he is mad. I think he will soon be free to kill again."

Curfew orders and tagging planned for fine defaulters

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

CURFEW orders monitored by electronic tagging are to be used for punishing fine defaulters and persistent low-level offenders such as those convicted of minor motoring offences, under plans announced by Home Office ministers yesterday.

The further extension of the American-style tagging experiment is aimed at developing alternatives to jailing 20,000 fine defaulters a year.

A consultation document published yesterday suggests that the courts be given powers to order unpaid community work or curfew as alternatives to a seven-day prison sentence.

The Home Office minister, Lady Blatch, said unpaid fines totalled £200 million a year. Some 22,400 men and 1,450 women are jailed each year for failing to pay fines.

Chief probation officers yesterday raised serious doubts about the proposals, saying they were fraught with practical difficulties and could harm community service orders which until now had been reserved for fairly serious offences.

JOIN NOW FROM JUST £99
To join the best...
0800 444 445

With specialist news, profiles and the latest developments
Read the Media pages
Every Monday in
The Guardian

OFFER REDEEMABLE BY PARTICIPATING AUTHORIZED TOYOTA DEALERS IN THE UK. OFFER MADE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND APPLIES TO NEW PASEO ST MODELS. ALL FINANCE IS PROVIDED SUBJECT TO STATUS TO COVER HIS ONLY INDIVIDUALS MAY BE REQUIRED. FULL WRITTEN QUESTIONNAIRE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM TOYOTA FINANCE LTD, THE QUADRANGLE, REDHILL, SMI 1PL. OFFER EXCLUDES N. IRELAND. NOTABILITY SCHEME VEHICLES SUPPLIED TO ESTABLISHED FLEET OPERATORS AND VEHICLES ACQUIRED UNDER EMPLOYMENT TAX FREE OR SPECIAL SALES PURCHASE SCHEMES. TRAFFIC COLLECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, AND INCLUDES VPI, HURDIS PATEL, ROAD FUND LICENCE AND A DELIVERY CHARGE OF £445 INCLUDING VAT. *CHARGE FOR CREDIT INCLUDES £60 ACCEPTANCE FEE (PAYABLE WITH FIRST PAYMENT) AND £35 OPTION TO PURCHASE FEE (PAYABLE WITH FIRST PAYMENT). THE TOYOTA INFORMATION SERVICE IS OPERATED ON BEHALF OF TOYOTA (GB) LTD.

World news in brief

Unemployment hits record in France

A RECORD one in eight French people of working age is now unemployed, according to figures released yesterday. The 12.5 per cent joblessness figure is the highest since international calculations were harmonised in 1983. With 3.38 million unemployed, France's unemployment rate rivals those of Ireland (12.4 per cent) and Italy (12.5 per cent). The figures were released only days after the prime minister, Alain Juppé, announced 8,000 job cuts among public servants. He said the cuts were to include 2,300 education posts, prompting teaching unions yesterday to call for strikes after the summer holidays. Marc Blondel, secretary-general of the socialist Force Ouvrière union centre, said he expected a further increase in joblessness. "One asks oneself if Juppé is still running the country," he told the financial daily newspaper, Les Echos. "It seems that the Bank of France and financiers are running it." The Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Économiques think tank yesterday predicted unemployment would continue to rise, even with a gradual return to growth, to 3.5 million next year. — Alex Duval Smith, Paris. Notebook, page 11

Rao exempted from testifying

INDIA'S supreme court yesterday exempted the former prime minister P. V. Narasimha Rao from testifying in a case in which he is accused of being party to the swindling of a wealthy British-based businessman, pending its ruling on his appeal against the summons issued by a lower court. Chief Justice A. M. Ahmadi said the New Delhi supreme court would begin hearing Mr Rao's appeal on August 12. The former prime minister had gone to the supreme court after the Delhi High Court had ruled on Tuesday that he must testify as a co-accused in the case. Mr Rao's appeal is his last legal recourse to quashing the summons. The case has brought calls for his resignation as president of the disgraced Congress party. "I am totally innocent and I have nothing to do with the matter," Mr Rao, aged 75, told state television. The lower court ordered him to appear after a businessman, Lekhubhai Pathak, said he had paid \$64,000 to an acquaintance of Mr Rao in 1983 in a vain attempt to win a government contract. Mr Pathak alleges that Mr Rao, then foreign minister, told him in a Manhattan hotel: "Your work will be done." Mr Rao says he was not in New York at the time. — Rauter, New Delhi.

Harare court rejects gay ban

ZIMBABWE'S only gay group won the right to take part in Africa's biggest book fair yesterday after the country's high court overruled a government ban. The ban announced on Monday — on the eve of the five-day international fair in Harare — was declared invalid because it did not specify which material was deemed unsuitable for display, said Keith Goddard, the spokesman for Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe. The government's censorship board had said the planned exhibit violated laws usually used to cover obscenity and violence in literature, the theatre and films. Mr Goddard said the gay group hoped to open its display by early today, despite threats of violence against homosexuals by militant students and ruling party officials. Organisers of the book fair were insisting on having the ruling in writing before allowing the group to set up its booth. Gay activists had planned to stock their booth with pamphlets on gay rights and on the organisation's counselling service. Last year, Zimbabwe's president, Robert Mugabe, forced a similar gay exhibit out of the fair, and described homosexuals as "lower than dogs and pigs". Homosexuality is illegal in Zimbabwe. In a separate case, the veteran Zimbabwean opposition leader Ndadzani Sithole is to stand trial in November on charges of plotting to assassinate President Mugabe, his lawyer said yesterday after a magistrate's hearing in Harare. — Agencies, Harare.



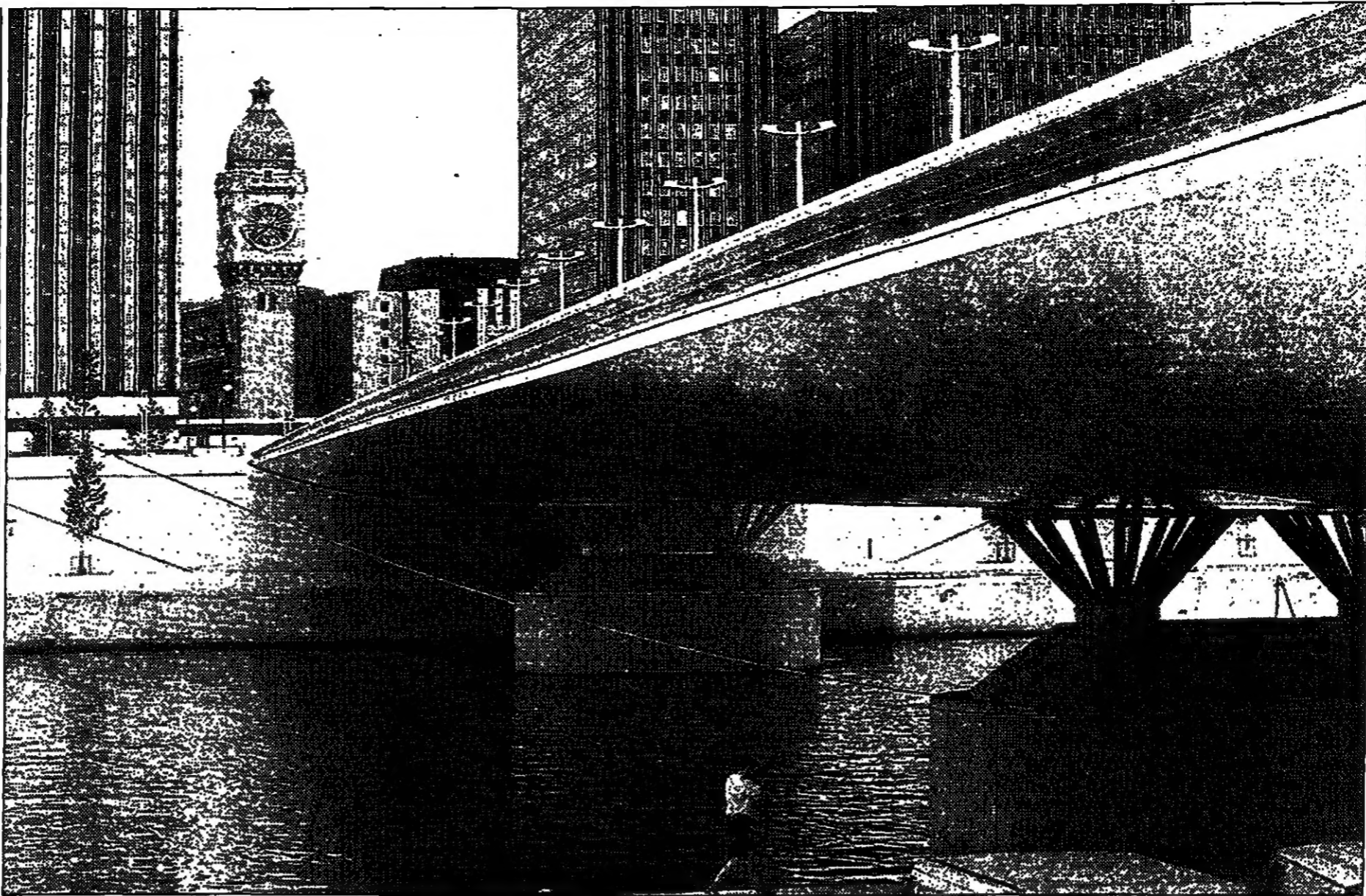
A Norwegian ballerina, Mette Lill Johansen (right), touches the side of a £70,000 house in Ski during an endurance competition to win it, which ended yesterday. Ms Johansen beat off 396 other hopefuls to claim her new home, after keeping her hand on it for 109 hours. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER NEUMAN

Bhutto's husband in cabinet

PAKISTAN'S prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, has selected her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, to fill one of eight new posts in her cabinet, state-run Pakistan Television reported yesterday. The appointment is likely to draw sharp criticism from government opponents, who have already accused Ms Bhutto of nepotism and corruption. Opposition members have accused Mr Zardari of corrupt business practices. It was the first significant cabinet expansion for Ms Bhutto's government. The portfolios for the new ministers will be determined later as part of an expected reshuffle. — AP, Islamabad.

New vaccine approved

THE United States Food and Drug Administration yesterday approved the first of several new whooping cough vaccines that promise to be safer for millions of infants. Connaught Laboratories' vaccine Tripedia has been shown in Swedish and German studies to be at least 80 per cent effective in preventing whooping cough, while causing fewer cases of fever, irritability and swelling upon injection than existing vaccines. Whooping cough attacks 50 million children worldwide annually, killing about 350,000. — AP, Washington.



The Pont Charles-de-Gaulle, which opens next Thursday, has been criticised for not linking large boulevards either side of the river

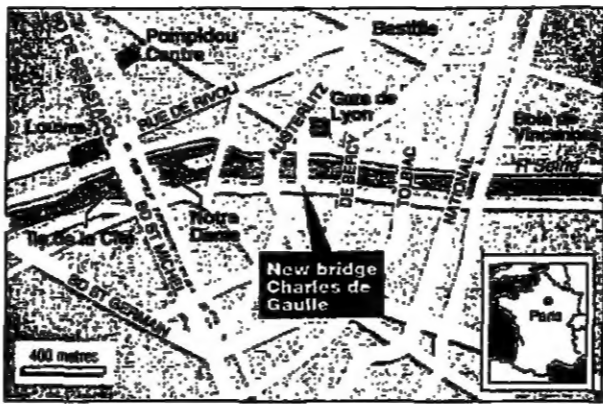
PHOTOGRAPH: THOMAS COEX

Paris banks on its 'bridge to nowhere'

Pont Charles-de-Gaulle is the toast of the capital but opponents claim it is a failure, writes Alex Duval Smith

ASPIRING artists hoping to follow in the footsteps of painters such as Monet, Signac and Caillebotte have a new Parisian subject for their canvases. The elegant Pont Charles-de-Gaulle, which opens to traffic at 5am next Thursday, is the 37th — and possibly last — bridge to be built across the Seine in central Paris. Jean-Marie, a workman putting a final coat of paint on a traffic-light post yesterday, believed the Fr 340 million (£30 million) concrete and steel structure broke new ground. "It is as beautiful and clean-looking as on the architect's drawing," he said. "But it is so neat that most people have not even noticed it is here."

The first new bridge in Paris for 24 years has been dogged by controversy since building work began three years ago. Now it is completed, opponents claim it is a bridge to nowhere, failing to link large boulevards either side of the river. Environmentalists consider the bridge's failure to be their triumph. Green campaigner Pierre-Alain Brossault said: "The plan was to raze the most magnificent hall in Gare d'Austerlitz and run four lanes of traffic through it. The bridge would have been one of the main crossings in Paris." Pressure from the environmentalists stopped the scheme. The Pont Charles-de-Gaulle is now one-way, with two lanes for cars, one for



buses and space for pedestrians and cyclists. The cycle lane — one of the capital's first stretches of tarmac dedicated to bicycles — is separated from the pavement by a wooden bench running the full 307 metres of the flat bridge. Mr Brossault is confident that cycle paths will be built on each bank to connect with the bridge. "The new mayor of Paris has seen the merit of encouraging cycling in the capital, so we are hopeful," he said. The design of the bridge — given its name by the Gaullist president, Jacques Chirac, when he was mayor of Paris — has been universally welcomed. Its clear lines on two steel and concrete supports make bridge-building look effortless. It contrasts starkly with its two neighbours up and downstream: the arched steel Viaduc d'Austerlitz with

its clattering metro traffic looks like a relic from the industrial revolution; and the limestone Pont de Bercy has all the glamour of a Roman aqueduct. A spokeswoman at Paris city hall had a prepared description of the new bridge: "It is simple, very fine and shaped like the wing of an aeroplane." Less poetically, she said traffic in the area, the 12th and 13th districts of the capital, was expected to increase by 40 per cent in the next 15 years. Mr Brossault, at 40 a lifelong resident of the 13th district, said that figure did not surprise him. "The bridge is right next to the new National Library — part of a development scheme which has taken the soul out of the last haven in Paris for ordinary people." Environmentalists on each side of the river claim that their areas — once home to wine warehouses and the site where Faubert created a petrol-driven car in 1891 — are being stripped of their trees, people and soul. The battered

Salvation Army hostel, on a barge moored near the new bridge, is said to be threatened with expulsion as part of a clean-up. "On one side of the river, we have been given luxury housing developments and the hideous ministry of finance. On the other, we are still suffering with the building site surrounding the National Library," Mr Brossault said. Although yesterday no artists were to be seen immortalising the new bridge, they may not be long in coming. The bridge's architect, Marcel Nouvriade, who took over the project after the death of the original designer, Louis Arretche and Roman Karsinski, believes the Pont Charles-de-Gaulle will be loved by artists. "Here, the eye of the pedestrian meets a range of sights which typify Paris. You can see the finance ministry, Austerlitz and Lyon stations, the National Library, several bridges and even the cathedral of Notre-Dame," he said.

Public averse to Yeltsin ode

James Meek in Moscow

AS KREMLIN coups go, it was swift, bloodless and short. The ode was dispatched without right of appeal and, for once, Russia had cause to bless the censor's hand. The poem in question — the Ode to the President — was due to be performed at Boris Yeltsin's inauguration next week, but there were jeers when extracts from the verse appeared in the Moscow press. Yesterday, the new head of the presidential administration, Anatoly Chubais, announced that he was putting the ode out of its, and everyone else's, misery. The most celebrated passage ran: "For our proud and mighty nation it is high time for celebration. Now that it has made its choice."

into detail about his reasons for banning the work, except to say that when he first read the extracts they produced "a strong impression". Three thousand people are due to attend the ceremony, in the Kremlin's Cathedral Square, which promises to be an intriguing and possibly troublesome attempt to heap imperial, Orthodox and democratic symbolism on a man who in recent television appearances has seemed to have difficulty walking. Conscious of the danger of a televised Sun King scenario at the inauguration, Mr Chubais said the ceremony would be "far from glittering" and would avoid "monstrous bombast". None the less, he added, the organisers had studied Marxist coronation rituals. "We borrowed an idea or two from those sources," he said. Mr Yeltsin has been away from his Kremlin desk, and

the public eye, since his re-election triumph. He has spent most of that time at the Barvikha government sanatorium. Mr Chubais said the Russian leader was in excellent form, but that after the inauguration he should "take a proper holiday". Moscow police have charged 10 people — mostly the children of senior security officials — in connection with the embezzlement of about \$100 million (£65 million) in government funds, the Interfax news agency reported yesterday. The money disappeared from the interior and defence ministries in 1993-94. Investigators said most of the funds were stolen by children of leading ministry officials, who used false promissory notes and financial credits. Police are also investigating the theft of billions of roubles from health ministry funds intended for medical care in Chechnya.

Serb office for tribunal

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

THE Bosnian Serbs agreed yesterday to allow the United Nations war crimes tribunal to set up an office on their territory — a significant departure from their earlier policy of non-co-operation — but claimed that "legal obstacles" still prevented them handing over war crime suspects. At its headquarters in The Hague, the tribunal ended three days of talks with a Bosnian Serb delegation with a joint statement announcing the establishment of a liaison office in the Serb-controlled town of Bijelina to co-ordinate the investigation of war crimes. There was little progress towards the surrender of war crimes suspects, such as the Bosnian Serb wartime leaders Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, who are still at large. The statement said: "Although it was considered by the delegation that there were

some legal obstacles in that regard, they would do all that they could to fully co-operate with the tribunal to bring all perpetrators to justice." The Bosnian Serb leadership initially dismissed the tribunal as a kangaroo court, but it has not tried to prevent its exhumation of mass graves, which began three weeks ago under heavy United States military protection. The despatch of a delegation under the justice minister, Marko Arsovic, and the acceptance of a liaison office suggest a significant improvement in co-operation. A UN official in Sarajevo described it as "a serious step forward". International mediators came away empty-handed yesterday from a meeting in Zagreb with the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, intended to resolve a political crisis in the divided city of Mostar which threatens to derail the peace settlement. Michael Steiner, the international community's deputy High Representative, who

was accompanied by the US ambassadors to Croatia and Bosnia, and the Bosnian vice-president Rjup Ganic, hoped that President Tudjman would instruct Bosnian Croat nationalists to end their boycott of the newly-elected Mostar city council, on which Muslim-led parties have a majority. Diplomats said the meeting was bitter and inconclusive. One said Mr Tudjman's attitude was "dismissive". The European Union says that if no compromise is found by Sunday it will wind up its peace mission in Mostar, setting a discouraging precedent for the national elections in September, which are intended to help rebuild multi-ethnic institutions. Admiral Joseph Lopez arrived in Sarajevo yesterday to take over command of the 55,000-strong peace implementation force from Admiral Leighton Smith, who is retiring from the US navy. Adm Smith said his successor, also from America, was "in for one hell of a ride".



Fortunately, the road-going version is smoother, somewhat quieter, and fits neatly into your video recorder.

To receive your free Audi A4 video, call 0345 99 88 77. Audi Audi Audi

arians
tough
abortion
Call the T
QUOTAT
Go hunt
0500

Handwritten text in a box: 0345 99 88 77

Bavarians get tough on abortion

Denis Staunton in Berlin

BAVARIA introduced a tough abortion law yesterday forcing women to say why they want to terminate their pregnancy and forbidding doctors to earn more than a quarter of their income from abortions.

The conservative Christian Social Union forced the legislation through the state parliament after a debate lasting more than 100 hours and in the face of passionate opposition from Social Democrats and Greens.

Two doctors have already warned that they will mount a legal challenge to the law.

The German Bundestag passed a federal abortion law last year after the Federal Constitutional Court ruled that women must receive counselling before a termination is allowed.

The federal law — which was backed by the government and the Social Democrats — allows abortion within the first three months of pregnancy and specifies that counselling must be neutral and "open-ended", leaving the decision to the woman herself.

The Bavarian law demands that women identify a reason for the termination during counselling, although the state government said that the sessions would remain neutral. It rejected opposition

charges that it was acting as the political arm of the Roman Catholic Church.

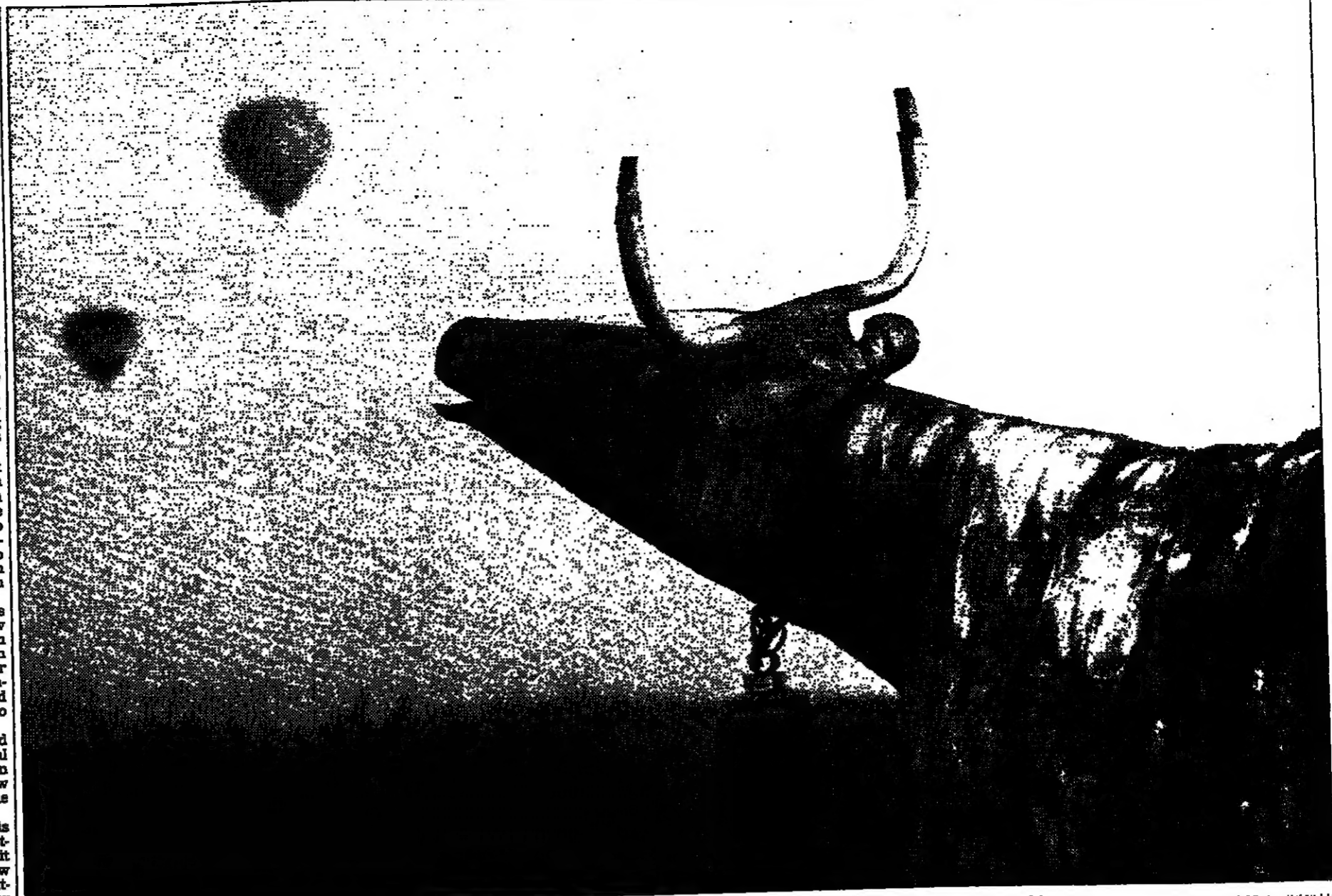
Bavaria ran into legal trouble last year when the Federal Constitutional Court ruled that the state's schools should not be obliged to display crucifixes in each classroom. The Bavarian prime minister, Edmund Stoiber, led a popular crusade against the ruling and vowed that the crosses would never be taken down.

The state government feared that specific abortion clinics would be set up in Bavaria unless doctors were persuaded that there was no commercial gain in performing terminations. Now, no doctor may earn more than 25 per cent of his income from abortions.

The Social Democrats warned that the new law would promote "abortion tourism", with Bavarian women travelling to other parts of Germany for terminations. The party said it would support a legal challenge to the bill.

However, experts warned yesterday that, if the Federal Constitutional Court rules in favour of Bavaria, the new law might be extended to the rest of Germany.

Germany's abortion rate is falling, especially in the eastern states, but officials admit that they do not know how many women travel to Britain and the Netherlands for cheap abortions with no strings attached.



Seen, not herd... A 1.5-ton metal cow, welded from fuel tanks by Gary Vig, is captured in a frozen moo on a farm near Woodinville, Washington

PHOTOGRAPH BY METE LICHTEL

News in brief

Cartoonist sentenced

The Algerian cartoonist Chawki Amari and Kheiridine Amyar, a director of the newspaper La Tribune, were given suspended jail sentences by a court in Algiers yesterday for a cartoon which mocked the national flag.

La Tribune said the "particularly heavy" sanctions were a warning to the country's independent press, which faced "intimidation and harassment from the most conservative circles of power". — Reuters.

Vesco in court

The fugitive American financier Robert Vesco, detained in Cuba a year ago, will go on trial in Havana today charged with defrauding foreign investors. The prosecution is seeking a 20-year jail sentence. — Reuters.

Desert moves

The United States and Saudi Arabia announced plans to move US troops in the kingdom to new locations as quickly as possible, to improve base security. — Reuters.

Mines at large

South Korean troops with metal detectors searched rice paddies yesterday for 864 tons

of shells, land mines, grenades and other ammunition swept away by floods which caused landslides and destroyed many barracks and other military installations in towns north of Seoul last week. — AP.

Kelly's gold

A group of Aborigines went to court in Brisbane yesterday demanding the £50 each promised to their ancestors Wannamatta and Weranmabe 116 years ago as a reward for helping the police to catch the outlaw Ned Kelly. — AP.

Verbal rocket

The United Nations special envoy to Afghanistan accused the Taliban militia of "contempt" in firing a salvo of rockets which landed near a UN office, and warned them they had to "learn how to negotiate and to compromise with people holding views other than theirs". — AP.

Shipshape

A patrol boat, the first vessel in the new Slovene navy, arrived in the northern port of Koper yesterday. — AP.

Bag victim

A pregnant giraffe died after swallowing a plastic bag which caught on the wire mesh of her cage at the Xi'an city zoo in China. — AP.

Buchanan plans a rival platform

Ian Katz in New York

PAT BUCHANAN, the tenacious thorn in the side of the Republican presidential contender Bob Dole, yesterday outlined an alternative convention platform and warned that he would not endorse Mr Dole unless he selected a sufficiently conservative running mate.

But the television commentator turned rabble-rousing ideologue offered the beleaguered Dole campaign some relief by announcing that he would not attempt to disrupt the Republican Party convention in San Diego and playing down suggestions that he might form an independent party.

He said: "We're going to that convention as Republicans. We hope to leave as Republicans. But I am more committed to a lot of these ideas and issues than to any party label."

Mr Buchanan, who sent shock waves through his party, and the country, by winning the New Hampshire primary in February, has doggedly refused to pull out of the race for the Republican nomination,

even though it was mathematically sealed by Mr Dole months ago.

Dole campaign staff feared that Mr Buchanan might attempt to upstage the former Senate majority leader in San Diego, just as he did at the last Republican convention in Houston, where his fiery speech was considered to be one factor contributing to George Bush's defeat.

Party bosses have gone to some lengths to prevent Mr Buchanan from speaking in San Diego when the party gathers there later this month, offering him instead the chance to record a brief speech, to be broadcast at the convention along with videoed comments from other losing contenders for the party nomination.

The conservative firebrand declined the offer, announcing that he would speak elsewhere in San Diego during convention week. However, he said he would not schedule his address to conflict with key convention speeches.

"That would be disruptive; I'm not going to do that," he said. Outlining a tax-cutting, protectionist platform fam-

iliar from his spritely shoe-string campaign, Mr Buchanan said: "Old-time American capitalism... and the communities that flourished in its shadow have all been driven to the brink of extinction by the two predators of unfair taxes and unfair trade."

He promised to get tough in San Diego if the party tried to weaken its commitment to a constitutional amendment banning the "growing practice of euthanasia and assisted suicide".

But in an apparently conciliatory move, he said he would push for the party to take more conservative positions rather than insist-

ing on policy commitments.

"These are not take-or-leave-it proposals. These are ideas that will emphasize the difference between the Republican Party and Bill Clinton."

He said his decision on whether to endorse Mr Dole, as all the other Republican contenders have done, would depend on the "tone" of the convention speakers and the former Kansas senator's choice of running mate.

The list of speakers — including the Gulf war hero General Colin Powell and the moderate New Jersey governor Christie Whitman — was not, he suggested, dryly, a "conservative lineup".

Clinton signs welfare bill to end guaranteed aid for poor

Reuter in Washington

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has decided to sign a Republican-sponsored welfare reform bill which would end the biggest changes in the federal aid programme for the poor since the 1930s.

Mr Clinton said he had decided to sign the bill despite some misgivings. Critics believe it would undermine support for poor children.

"Today we have an historic opportunity to make welfare what it was meant to be: a second chance, not a way of life," Mr Clinton said.

Officials said that although Mr Clinton was troubled by some features of the bill, he had decided that on balance it

was an improvement on the current welfare system and could be modified later.

The bill would end a 61-year guarantee of federal aid to the poor, limit benefits to five years and require recipients to work after two years of benefits.

One source said Mr Clinton's decision was expected to cause an uproar among some of his fellow Democrats, but said the White House did not expect any "fundamental political problems".

Mr Clinton, who promised in his 1992 election campaign to "end welfare as we know it", vetoed two previous welfare reform bills. Some advisers argued that vetoing a third could prompt election-year charges of insincerity.

1 Call the TSB Mortgage QUOTATION LINE

2 Go hunt that house

Find out what you can borrow, BEFORE hunting.
The call is free, the quote is free, so why not ring TSB PhoneBank for more information quoting reference GH4.

CALL FREE 0500 758 000

TSB We want you to say YES

Mortgages

Call to PhoneBank may be recorded and monitored. A TSB cheque account is required. Assignment/assignment of a suitable life policy may be required by the Bank as security. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. All loans subject to status. Not available in the Channel Islands. Written quotations are available on request by calling 0500 758 000. TSB Bank plc and TSB Bank Scotland plc (regulated by HMRO and SFA) are representatives of the TSB Marketing Group which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority only for TSB life insurance, pensions, unit trusts and offshore investments. Advice or recommendations relate only to the investments of that Group. TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ. Registered in England and Wales. Number: 1089268. TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland. Number: 95297.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Enjoy your garden even more at Homebase prices.

Picnic Set 17 Pieces £2.99 Save £2

White Relaxer with Summer Fruits Cushion £29.99 Save £5

£5.99

£9.99

Coolbox 30 litre £30.99 Save £1

Rocker Chair Green Stripe £24.99 Save £5

Homebase Popular Gas Barbecue £89.99 Save £10

£22.49

Homebase Tornado Barbecue £24.99 Save £2.50

Homebase Instant Lighting Charcoal 2kg £4.49 Save 50p

SAINSBURY'S HOMEBASE HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES

Good ideas cost less at Homebase.

Monday-Thursday 8am - 8pm Friday 8am - 9pm Saturday 8am - 8pm Sunday 10am - 4pm

All prices are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Not all products will be available at the following Homebase stores: Maidstone - St. Erves Street, Ayr and Perth. Opening times may vary. Please call 0181 200 0200 for details of your nearest store. *Except stores in Scotland which open 9am - 6pm.

Jumping the gun

Ban them now: no need to wait

AT THE TIME of the Dunblane massacre, politicians were left as shocked and helpless as the rest of the community. The Government now has the opportunity to make life safer by banning the private ownership of handguns. The home affairs select committee has had the opportunity to contribute and has muffed its chance. It should be ignored.

The Conservative majority of the committee refused to back this sensible measure because of its so-called impracticality. John Greenway, one of the Conservative members, pleads that despite the strength of feeling in the wake of Dunblane, gun ownership should be looked at "dispassionately". Of course public feeling isn't always the best guide for policy, as Martin Woolcott makes clear on the page opposite. But the universal outcry following the deaths of the 16 children and the 700,000 signatures of the Snowdrop petition against handguns shouldn't be ignored either. Public opinion here chimes with the dictates of both morality and commonsense.

The majority of the home affairs committee has chosen only to recommend stronger requirements for gun licensing. The tougher screening proposed for those applying to use such weapons would never be entirely fool-proof. The effect, if another Thomas Hamilton slips through, would be devastating: no one can be sure it won't happen again. It is easy to conclude after the tragedy has occurred, whether in Dunblane or in Tasmania, that those responsible could have been identified in advance as fitting the typical profile of a single male suffering from low self-esteem and alienation. But such a person may, before the event, simply be seen as a bit odd or a loner. With hindsight it seems obvious that Thomas Hamilton should never have had access to weapons, but human behaviour is unpredictable. It would be an impos-

sible task to stop some people slipping through the net. But that does not mean we shouldn't try.

Following the Hungerford massacre in 1987, when Michael Ryan killed 16 people, private ownership of semi-automatic weapons was rightly banned. Ownership of automatic weapons was already illegal. The gun lobby, predictably, claimed then that such a ban was an impractical knee-jerk reaction — but the judgment was right: that the danger of members of the public owning such weapons outweighed the benefit from their private ownership and sporting use. That judgment should be applied more extensively now for handguns: the principle is exactly the same. If the government judges there to be a legitimate case for the use of handguns in sport a practical — and "dispassionate" — solution is possible. There is absolutely no reason why people should have handguns at home. Those who wish to use them for sport should do so at a gun club and all such weapons should be kept there. By law gun clubs would have to meet stringent security standards and those clubs without a highly secure armoury should not be allowed to offer facilities for handgun shooting.

The home affairs committee report will not be published till later this month but the early disclosure of the central issue — to which the public attaches such importance — was justifiable. John Prescott has, rightly, pledged the Labour Party's support in a vote to ban handgun ownership in homes. The Government is refusing to comment until after Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane tragedy reports back in the autumn. The Conservative Party, which prides itself on a tough approach to law and order, should stop procrastinating. Waiting until autumn won't make any difference. Handguns are not safe at home: and that's that.

Images of the battlefield

Improving airport security is only part of the solution

TERRORISM IS by definition a terrible thing, but the frenetic reaction to recent events should prompt some reflection. The Paris meeting of the G7 and Russia was the third international gathering in four months. Each has been triggered by a particularly horrific incident: each is said to put on a "show of unity" which will send a "strong message" to terrorists around the world. Yet this may have the opposite effect, simply demonstrating that to hit at American targets will generate the maximum anger and disarray — and gratification for those committing the deed.

The practical steps agreed on in Paris could have been taken by a group of specialists whose decisions would not then be broadcast for all to hear. Setting higher standards of detection at airports, improving the stamping of vehicle identification numbers to ease analysis of metal fragments, and pooling forensic data more widely are common-sense measures. Standards in the US are often no better than elsewhere. Airports are overwhelmed by the volume of human traffic and its baggage: dozens of poorly vetted staff are allowed to board aircraft on the ground. The US with Britain leads the world in the development of chemical trackers. Yet more than a year after the Oklahoma City bombing, President Clinton is still trying to persuade Congress to approve the use of chemical "taggants" to identify the common black powder often used in homemade explosives.

The case of the Atlanta security guard Richard Jewell shows just what difficult ground this is. Whether or not he was involved, there seems little doubt that this bomb must be attributed to the American ultra-right. Fierce declarations of war on terrorism will have even less effect in Montana than Damascus. At the moment, the US feels threatened from both quarters — assuming that the TWA disaster was (a) caused by a bomb, and (b) that a Middle Eastern source was responsible. Commentators are proclaiming an end to innocence and the need for greater vigilance. Certainly no one who stirs from home can be indifferent to the potential threat, even if it is minute compared to other risks. Worst-case scenarios go further with speculation about chemical and biological agents, or nuclear material acquired from the former Soviet Union. Again, these are alarming possibilities which cannot just be shrugged aside.

But to talk solely in images of the battlefield is to miss the point: the terrorists may be the enemy but they are not aliens from another planet. They come, however perverse or destructive their goals, from within societies to which we belong, either as nations or as members of the world community. What sort of homeland breeds pipe-bomb fanatics? What kind of regional tensions have bred whole generations of bombers? These questions, as much as those about improved security, also need to be asked.

On the oche, aiming for gold

We need a strategy to restore Olympic honours

IT IS disconcerting how the world gangs up against Britain by inventing all sorts of new Olympic sporting events to undermine our chances. Nothing else can explain Britain's dismal performance this year which could be one of the worst on record. We have to go back to 1908 to find an outstanding performance by Britain (56 golds, would you believe) but that was when the Olympics included sensible sports like tug-of-war. It is time to fight back. The news that snooker is being considered for the 2004 games is encouraging (but they ought to delay a decision so other countries don't have time to practise). So was yesterday's news that the British Darts Organisation has suggested that darts be included as well.

This is only the start. The Government should insist on more real games being accorded Olympic status: like rounders, tossing the caber, skittles, archery (with longbows), real tennis,

real cycling (with penny farthings), tidgylwinks, marbles, postman's knock, Morris Dancing, tip and run, knock-down-ginger, yard-of-ale drinking and shove-a-penny (the latter could be extended to shove-euro to prove we are not being nationalistic). Other track events could be included as long as they are measured in yards rather than metres to deter as many competitors as possible. (If Linford Christie had been running in the 100 yards rather than the 100 metres would he have been so distracted as to make a false start?) It is only through radical thinking that we can recapture the glory that is Britain.

And it should banish for ever such silly suggestions that Britain's failure has got something to do with the thousands of sports fields and other facilities forced to close under the Government's scorched earth policy towards schools. It is time we stopped looking for excuses and did something positive.

New! "Dispassionate View" WITH THE Home Affairs Select Committee Range

"BLINKERS"

AND DON'T FORGET THERE'S A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE HERE, AS ANY HUMAN BEING WOULD NO DOUBT AGREE SHOULD I EVER HAPPEN TO MEET ONE

Comes in **TORY BLUE**, **IVAN LAWRENCE YELLOW** & **BLOOD RED**

Also available from The Home Affairs Select Committee Range: — **BLINDFOLDS, EAR PLUGS, PERSONAL BUCKET OF SAND** & **HEAD MUFFLERS.**

Letters to the Editor

On these mean streets

TREVOR Nunn has got his script seriously wrong when he charges London's homeless people with the responsibility for cleaning up the capital's streets (Theatre chief attacks "squalid" London, July 30).

To say that people forced to sleep rough on London's streets are therefore ideally placed to clean them up is a misleading diversion from the main plot. London is centre-stage for some of the country's worst housing problems — the lack of affordable homes for rent being the most important factor. Mr Nunn's arguments not only fail to address the fundamental problems of the lack of investment in sanitation but also portray homeless people as a superfluous subplot.

Forsooth, Mr Nunn — come to see the West End and I believe we do a good job in the face of some unique circumstances. The West End has a million visitors a day. Pubs, clubs, restaurants, theatres and cinemas operate cheek-by-jowl with offices, stations and people's homes. Westminster was judged Europe's cleanest capital in 1994 and ranked first among London boroughs at the end of last year.

The explosion of pavement cafe life, the expansion of fast-food outlets and the growing number of visitors have increased the size of the task this year. We are working hard to respond to these challenges and remain committed to the highest possible standards of street cleanliness.

Finally, is he suggesting we press-gang the homeless into the cleaning service? More practical solutions come from the Rough Sleeper Initiative and the excellent "Off the streets and into work" project, in both of which the city council plays an important part.

Jonathan Lord,
Chairman, Environment Sub-Committee,
Westminster City Hall,
64 Victoria Street,
London SW1E 6QP.

POOR street maintenance is merely symbolic of the wider malaise that affects all our public services. I have recently returned from Paris where a large, publicly employed and equipped and highly motivated workforce maintains streets to the highest standard.

It is perfectly possible to provide civilised street maintenance as well as all the other, even more vital, public services that are needed. But budgetary restraint, staff-cutting and fragmentation of services through contracting out of public provision to private firms is not the way.

What is required is a proper debate on the budget that needs to be set to provide good public services as well as from whom, and by what means, the taxation is to be raised to pay for them.

Græme Cowen,
Flat 2, Tewit Well House,
Tewit Well Road,
Harrogate HG2 8JG.

IT'S SILLY of Trevor Nunn to get all dramatic about the state of the West End. All it needs is a concerted dip into London's piggy bank (otherwise known as the National Lottery) and the rest of Britain can play Fairy Godmother yet again.

Yvonne D Yates,
117 Misserons Close,
Church Hill, Redditch,
Worce B98 5LP.

Strong words

IT'S THE best of news to me that Julie Burchill is "back" (Return of the month, July 23). When she was writing for the Sunday Times I used to open that paper even on the street, at the risk of collision with her piece, unable to wait till I got home. Whether or not I agreed with what she wrote, though I often did, her writing was my weekly tonic.

Then her articles stopped appearing, and I couldn't see an editor who would either get rid of her, or let her go. I assumed she had been made an offer she couldn't refuse, and that I'd hear about it soon. I was mystified, and I would not want her back. Alan Sillitoe,
c/o The Savage Club,
Whitehall Place,
London SE1.

JOHN Eard's report on Jlocal dialects (Don't be frit, July 31) says that "adde-headed" occurs only in Somerset and Gloucestershire. The listing beside it says "Wilts, Glouce." I remember it from my Somerset school days, so you may mazed for a start.

Denys Bowring,
Calla Roundstone,
Co Galway, Ireland.

THERE is something wrong with your dialectician if it is thought that the Greater London term for "wilt" is "the two of us". It is, of course, "bof of us". Fred Westwood,
10 Grand Parade,
Green Lanes,
London N4.

"MORE precisely," writes Francis Wren (Wisdom, July 31). "Tony Blair can be likened to the Lenin of March 1924." So that's why Blair's policies are so lifeless, he's been embalmed for the past two months. Simon Terry,
23 Chesterfield Gardens,
London N4.



Hands on the wheel, please

CONGRATULATIONS on tackling the growing menace of the use of mobile phones by drivers (Hands off the mobile, July 29). I would be surprised if there were any in which case there is no urgency or excuse for endangering others; or they may be vital (in the driver's opinion) if so, they are likely to provide such a distraction as to divert his or her attention from driving, which must be equally unacceptable. Driving with one hand on

the wheel and one's attention distracted must lie somewhere between driving without due care and attention and dangerous driving. Both are offences and it is hard to see how either could be defended. I agree that having a hands-free phone is preferable, but the possibility of serious distraction remains.

Peter King,
Rose Mount,
Watburn Road,
New Mills,
Stockport SK12 4EH.

The call of the wild places

IAN MITCHELL in his article on conservation bodies (Who's got a secret, July 31) unfairly criticises the John Muir Trust for not providing him with copies of management plans, whereas it was made clear to him that these are in the process of preparation. The trust has only acquired its four properties in recent years and is committed to gathering all relevant information about their qualities and features, and involving local people in planning future management.

These wild landscapes are of immense value to people living there and visitors alike. It is important to produce properly researched management plans which take these interests into account. If this takes a little time, we make no apology. Local people quite rightly

find it offensive to suggest they are living in a wilderness. Wilderness may exist in the mind but it certainly does not exist on the ground in Scotland. What we have are wild places — wild places for people. We believe that it is only by working with local people that sustainable conservation can be achieved. Nigel Hawkins,
Director, The John Muir Trust,
1 Auchterhouse Park,
Auchterhouse,
Dundee DD3 0QU.

BISON still roam the forests of Europe (Country Diary, July 30), especially Poland, where Hermann Goering was instrumental in their preservation by creating a private hunting park. Geoff Luke,
60 Riding Dene,
Mickleby, Northumberland.

Hammer blows ring loud in the battle against terrorism

THE G7 states, ourselves among them, have come up with yet more get-tough policies to combat "terrorism" (Purge omits terror "patrons", July 31). Meanwhile an English jury has found innocent four women who might well have been seen as terrorists by many of those same G7 governments (Peace women cleared over jet attack, July 31).

These women seriously damaged a British Aerospace warplane, on the grounds that it was destined for use by a state in furtherance of a policy of genocide. Interesting questions arise. Might these women, despite their acquittal, now expect to be blacklisted by the new G7 international surveillance and intelligence machinery? On the other hand — given the Liverpool judgment, might we now see the Indonesian government blacklisted as a terrorist organisation? And if Indonesia's undoubted terrorism were so recognised, which other states in our morally dubious international world might be next?

The only truly effective weapon in "the fight against terrorism" is one which governments hate to consider. It is the recognition that terrorist behaviour is committed, mostly by people who are victims of injustice, by states themselves and who are denied avenues of redress. The answer is for governments to recognise their injustices towards those whom they have driven to desperation.

Prevention of terrorism can only be achieved by honest efforts to address its causes, not by further repressing the already aggrieved. Stanley Wallinets,
Mickleton,
Co Durham.

GIVEN that the "Ploughshare 4" have now been acquitted of charges of criminal damage against a Hawk fighter plane on the grounds that their actions were to prevent the greater evil of genocide, will the Crown Prosecution Service now be bringing charges against British Aerospace for selling such equipment to the Indonesian government for use in murdering the East Timorese, and against the British government for granting export licences for this activity? Charges of conspiracy to commit genocide would seem appropriate. Ruth Guray,
28 Rochester Square,
London NW1 5SA.

THE Liverpool crown court ruling comes as tremendous relief to me. As I see it, I may now break into my neighbour's house and use a hammer to break up his illegally held handgun. Handguns are frequently used to kill innocent people and killing innocent people is a crime repeatedly condemned by the United Nations. Brian P Moss,
53 Mill Crescent,
Kingsbury, Tamworth,
Staffs B78 2NW.

The reality of Amsterdam

THE legalisation of brothels may well be a good idea, but offering Amsterdam as a "workable and civilised" model (Letters, July 31) is nonsense.

The theory of the place may be impeccable but the reality is different. The area is full of sad-faced South-east Asian and east European girls, many of them illegal immigrants, who come into the city from Europe and trapped once they are here. The place reeks of enforced exploitation by organised crime. The peepshow set-up of the shop windows is deeply degrading for the women having to stand naked to the world, and you can't walk 100 metres without some shifty little creep trying to sell you coke or heroin.

Anyone who thinks that is emancipation for prostitutes needs his or her head examined. The only freedom there

is the freedom of (male) criminals to exploit frightened and trapped girls without fear of prosecution. Peter Hardwick,
3 Old Lionstone Road,
Didsbury,
Manchester M20 2NU.

Broad church

YOUR news item (Heath paid to speak at 'Moonie' conference, July 31) quotes an organiser, Larry Moffat, as saying of Sir Edward: "When we are talking family issues, like poverty, famine, he's one of the most experienced men in the neighbourhood." I think someone should have a word with Mr Moffat — preferably before he hands over the cheque. Michael Hutton,
6 Monclaire Road,
London SE8 8AX.

A Country Diary

ROSEMARKIE: It looked incongruous striding along a sun-soaked beach near Inverness where people were sunbathing as I had wellingtons on and was carrying a long-handled pond net. Not so my two young grandchildren, as they were in their element running through the shallow water as we headed for the rocks. There are few rock pools on this part of the east coast of the Highlands but this stretch is ideal as some of the pools are deep. The main purpose of the visit was to collect some winkles for me to eat and the pond net was to introduce the children to the rich wildlife of the pools. When I was their age I was brought up on eelers (baby eels), tripe and chitterlings, with the occasional bag of winkles that were sold from a market stall in Gloucester. When I kept several aquariums my favourite was the one for rock pool fish, anemones and crabs and it was at Rosemarkie that I collected the various specimens. Once a good bag of winkles had been collected I started pond dipping, trying

to remember the technique I had used in the past when looking for sticklebacks and newts. For a while I caught nothing but the inevitable winkles but then the first small crab appeared and went into the jar for a while, then the first fish, one of my favourites in the aquarium as it was a 15-spined stickleback. The specimens I had caught before were about six inches long and resembling a miniature pike but this one was very young, only about an inch long. A larger crab came next and then two blennies from a deep pool near the crashing waves and then a goby to complete the catch for the morning. The catch was carefully released into a large pool where there were dozens of red anemones, many with their tentacles out and looking almost bizarre. The following day I had the winkles for lunch with garlic butter and they were delicious, reminding me of the days when eelers were so cheap that some people gave them away. RAY COLLIER

0571 837 4530

Diary
Matthew Norman

A TOUCH of what my friend Mandy Manderson would call the "nurturing through-nurturing" thrusts the security of the Labour benches. Carol Barron, wife of Rother Valley MP Kevin, writes in response to the item here about queue jumping in the Commons taxi rank to report her own ill-treatment by MPs from all three parties. An unnamed Liberal nickered her taxi, and Tory MP Nicholas Winterbottom's dependent had "a face like a smacked bum". As for her husband's colleague Andrew Faulds, the ex-actor, Mrs Barron claims that, having failed to catch a lift, "he pulled me back muttering that MPs had priority over riff-raff". Even today's Labour party, "riff-raff" sounds a touch onerous, and Mr Faulds denies it with passion. "Oh this is nonsense," he says. "Riff-raff is certainly not a phrase I'd use. She obviously feels resentful. Perhaps she wanted me to chat her up?" Mr Faulds, who has written to Mr Barron, further denies any pulling. "I didn't lay a hand on her. I wouldn't touch anyone." Let us hope that settles it, and that Mrs Barron can now recover from the trauma of an incident which she says - coming moments after Nelson Mandela's speech to parliament - made her feel "empathy rather than sympathy" for the victims of apartheid.

THE Diary is reconsidering its own stand for Parliament in Clwyd South, the seat to be contested for the Tories by Telegraph enforcer Boris the Jackal Johnson. We are now thinking of standing in New Forest East, where the Conservative candidate is Dr Julian Lewis, the man who spends his days at Central Office yanking his dial this way and that in the quest for anti-Tory bias on the airwaves. Julian is thrilled at the idea. "I'm delighted to hear it," he says. "You couldn't have chosen a nicer part of the country. I'm honoured that you've selected me to stand against... No, really, I mean that most sincerely." Assuming that it was Julian, and not a robotic clone of Hughie Green, we hope to speak to him again soon to discuss sharing a car and even dips.

I AM concerned by the itinerary of my friend Michael Howard. Michael was with the FBI in Washington on Monday, at a conference on crime in Paris on Tuesday, and in Los Angeles yesterday to give a talk on coping with terrorists (though not, presumably, on how to guard them). No sensible taxpayer could resent picking up the tab for the first class flights for a moment, of course - and if Michael wants to stay on in his beloved America for a little holiday, that's his own business. What will worry his mother Hilda and myself, however, is the havoc all this flying across the Atlantic will do to his sinuses. There is nothing that depresses Michael like one of his summer colds.

YET another fax bearing the letterhead Scimitar Films (what films, exactly, does it make?) has been discovered. Yes, it's Michael Winter again. This one is dated July 19, and was mislaid in the ever-taller pile of Winter communications. "I've come to an extremely important decision," Michael begins. "I am going to leave you some money in my will. Because when I die, I'd forbid, 'you will have absolutely nothing to write about and I would not like to think of you destitute.' Bless his doughty old multiply bypassed heart. It would be vulgar to wonder about the amount, but I don't suppose, Michael, there's any chance of an advance?"

AFTER years of training, Prince Philip has become so adept at offending foreign hosts that he does it without trying. Reuters reports that, on a trip to Lapland in northern Sweden, the Duke asked someone a variation of how long they had worked there, namely, "How many reindeer do you have?" This, it turns out, is Lapland slang for "How much are you worth?", and the offended interviewee answered evasively. Poor old boy, he never gets it right.

LIKE MY NEW SCENT? IT'S "TITAN ARUM".



Science that produces more death than life

Commentary Hugo Young

THIS is a day that should not be diminished. Something of moment is happening that has not happened before. The mass disposal of human embryos, under supervision of an agency of the state, is a milestone in the affairs of men, women and children. Let it pass by, and we conspire in the normalising of organised death. This normalising, however, is written into law. As well as being a moment to mark in itself, the despatch of 3,300 frozen embryos asks a question about the price which that law exacts on our humanity. Destruction of embryos is nothing new. It is integral to individual acts of in vitro fertilisation (IVF). When sanctioned by the creators, the parents, embryos can be routinely despatched. What's happening today is the exercise of a duty the law lays on the Human Fertilisation and Embology Authority to approve the despatching of embryos, or otherwise dis-

carded, embryos after five years. It is, I call, ordained by Parliament. For many people, that is the end of the story. When Parliament has acted, we can all wash our hands. Certainly the HFEA can. Its chairman, Ms Ruth Deech, spoke the other day as if the Commons was not only the source of all legal authority but the supreme exponent of ethical sagacity as well. So the HFEA is not the place to ask a fundamental question. It is appointed to do a job of work. It operates the system, licensing this or that clinic, laying down this or that rule of practice. Its members are serious people. But so far as the matter of death is concerned, the HFEA can't take an interest. The 3,300 surplus embryos are no more than the embarrassing by-product of a project whose benign purpose - the bestowal of a fertility that nature has withheld - is unimpairedly contaminated by the monstrous procedures entwined around it, without which it cannot be accomplished. The interesting thing about the discourse of the last five years is that this implication of IVF is largely accepted. We are no longer dealing with the old scholastic arguments about when life begins. This is a change from the temper of the abortion argument, which was so often dominated by disputes as to the nature of

what was occurring. Pro-abortionists liked to talk about the fetus as a lump of jelly, while anti-abortionists insisted it was life itself. The woman's right to choose was rendered more acceptable by the contention that what she was choosing, at any rate in the early stages, was of merely biological significance. With the development of IVF, embryo-speak has moved on. Lady Warnock, the high priestess of humanism and chief author of the report that set this ball rolling, affirms that the embryos which are about to be destroyed are a human life with sufficient ability to give rise to any fundamental question that might supersede the utilitarian good that sometimes comes from IVF. For IVF is by no means invariably successful, and even the embryos lucky enough to be selected for implantation come to birth only 25 per cent of the time. But hardly anyone now denies what is occurring. Ms Deech recognises it well. "Sadly," she notes, the embryos have to perish. There is no want of gravity. The HFEA itself does not hesitate to talk about "the child" when discussing whose welfare matters most in deciding what kind of patient should be offered treatment. Thus, even before the making of the

embryo, its status as a life, as an entity with rights, as "the child", seems to be fully understood. Such absence of cant might be regarded as a sign of progress. The appalling dishonesties of the old abortion debates have not survived. But actually, the new honesty makes a grimmer point. The IVF practitioners, and the society that licenses them, know exactly what they are doing. And yet it is done. With inexorable determination, work on IVF is carried on and all its inconvenient over-matter is, sadly, destroyed. The utilitarian contract, which demands the greatest happiness for the greatest number as long as they can speak for themselves, makes another baleful claim on the moral universe, chipping away at the ground society once thought to be inviolable.

IN this new world, the language of the apologists helps to emphasise just how far we have come. Experimentalism seems to have loosened the bonds of thinking as well as practice. Prof Lord Winston, asked not long ago whether embryos might be damaged by freezing, stated: "It's impossible to say. But if there is a risk it will be just like radiation. There's no way we'd see the effect yet." Prof Ian Craft begs our sympathy for his dilemma, saying clinically: "When you're deliberately putting a needle into a fetus to render it non-viable, you know that you're doing something you would wish not to be doing." All of this, I repeat, has become normal. It's the natural outflow of a world that has chosen greatly to diminish the respect it shows for the origin of human life. Indeed, the endeavour to overcome the natural imperfections of fertility is represented as positively heroic work, imposing

on all those who advance the cause of IVF moral dilemmas which they must be praised for solving in a way that truly offends their sensibilities.

This is not the way the problem was described when the status creating the HFEA was going through Parliament. Yet it is the way it now appears, through the mouths both of the practitioners and of their critics. For every successful IVF birth, soppily celebrated in the newspapers, there are scores, at least, of embryos destroyed. Openly, it seems, we know or suspect that it is going on. The day of mass destruction is the day to ask the question: is this what we really want?

Infertility is a misfortune. As someone with four children myself, I have to acknowledge that. Considered purely as science, IVF is an achievement. But it seems to be a lot more hit-and-miss, after many years of practice, than it should be. And on the roster of medical discoveries it ranks pretty low. Among the carriers of catastrophic side-effects, on the other hand, none ranks higher. With the built-in licence to do more death than life, a utilitarian calculation that despatches to carry its own weight in the scales of human happiness.

There have been pleas for the life, or at least the continued freezing, of today's doomed embryos. The law as it stands seems to make these vain. They are not, in any case, the answer. Now that we perfectly understand what IVF means, the right course for a society in touch with humane values would be to amend the law so that it would declare the planing, incitement or funding of terrorism to be against the principles of the United Nations.

Locked up for 10 years without trial



Isabel Hilton

IF Michael Howard weren't such a nice man I might be worried. But there is a category of prisoner in Mr Howard's care who might be worried by his desire to change the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees. Mr Howard is worried about terrorism, as we all are. Among his contributions to the discussions in Paris was the thought that dangerous terrorists should not be able to hide behind the convention. The convention, of course, permits those who have a well-grounded fear of persecution in their own country to seek asylum in another, beyond the reach of their home regimes. Mr Howard proposes that would declare the planing, incitement or funding of terrorism to be against the principles of the United Nations.

No doubt acts of terrorism are against the principles of the UN, assuming for the sake of the argument, that a definition satisfactory to all parties can be reached. In fact, it's a thought so obvious that one wonders why Mr Howard should feel it necessary to enshrine this banality in a new text. But what exactly constitutes planning, funding or incitement? That, no doubt, would be left to Mr Howard's wise and benevolent judgment. And the exercise of that judgment would make it easier for Britain to refuse asylum to doubtful characters.

Who are these people who must be refused the shelter of the convention? They are not convicted terrorists, since most countries have no difficulty at present refusing entry to people who have a record of terrorist acts. Such cases are already covered by the convention which permits states to refuse asylum to war criminals and to anyone who has committed a serious non-political crime or who has been guilty of acts "contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN". It also permits the refusal of anyone who could be considered a danger to the national security of the host country. These are broad provisions, so why does Mr Howard need more?

These are not the only extra powers that Mr Howard seeks. Last week the Home Office announced it was to seek powers to prosecute in this country people who had committed offences abroad. It was publicised as a measure to bring to justice men who com-

mitted sexual offences against children in, say, Bangkok. But Mr Howard no doubt has our wider welfare in mind in the paragraph that reads "Acting on conspiracy and incitement will also help to control the activities of foreign extremists who use this country as a base to plan or encourage criminal acts abroad." Plan? Encourage? That couldn't possibly mean people like the Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Mas'ari, could it? Al-Mas'ari has not been convicted of any crime of terrorism, nor is he wanted for one. But then, neither has Karamjit Singh Chahal, an Indian Sikh who has been resident in the United Kingdom since 1971 and was given indefinite leave to remain in 1974. In 1984 Mr Chahal returned to India for a family wedding, was detained for three weeks and brutally tortured. He returned to this country after his release.

Mr Chahal has now been in prison, without trial, for more than six years - the equivalent of having served a 10-year sentence. Which repressive regime continues to detain him? Not the government of India, but Her Majesty's Government, specifically the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. The British Government's grievance against Mr Chahal might never have been known, even to him, were it not for the fact that the European Commission on Human Rights unanimously found Britain guilty of violating Mr Chahal's human rights on four counts. In the process, the Government was forced to make some of its case public. Mr Chahal was said to have attended a court hearing involving other terrorists (it was subsequently proved that he hadn't) and to have a conviction for a violent offence in this country. That conviction, which involved an attack in 1982, was quashed by the Court of Appeal in 1982. So is Mr Chahal free? Alas, no. Nor will he be until his case comes before the European Court in September.

MR CHahal is apparently suspected by the British Home Office of conspiracy to organise terrorist acts. In a 1981 statement, the Home Office observed that Mr Chahal had been a member of the International Sikh Youth Federation. In fact, Mr Chahal was a member of the southern branch of the ISYF, a small, non-violent organisation.

When President Clinton tried to change the US anti-terrorist laws to permit the deportation of people who give money to terrorist groups, it provoked an outcry in Congress, and it was pointed out that the US Constitution did not allow people to be deported on secret evidence. Mr Howard has few such constraints and still he seeks extra powers. Fortunately, he's such a nice man that we can be sure he will use them wisely.

Martin Woollacott unravels the moral tangle of government and public opinion in cases such as the Bulger sentencing, Hawk-missile bashing and owning handguns

Bangs and whimpers

THERE has never been a time when governments have paid so much attention to public opinion, but equally never a time when people have felt more strongly that governments, on issue after issue, ignore what they want. Plotting their moves from poll to poll, our rulers seem to have our views powerfully in mind, but only rarely to make decisions that reflect them. That is true of issues as diverse as health policy, jobs, or monetary union. But the fiercest battleground of changing conceptions of morality and the public interest has always been, in Britain as in other countries, that of crime and punishment. On this field the press is as much a contender as the government, the legal profession, or the churches. Three cases now underline how intricately meshed are the courts, government, newspapers, and public opinion. The censure of Michael Howard by the Appeal Court - in part because his decision to impose lengthy sentences on the boys who killed James Bulger was influenced by a Sun campaign - in effect rebukes a politician for giving in to public opinion, a newspaper for manipulating it, and the "public" at least that public which the Sun called into being, for ignorance and cruelty.

But the vote of Conservative members of the Commons Home Affairs Committee against a ban on handguns after the Dunblane massacre, shows both public opinion and newspaper in a different light. Here members of the ruling party have gone against the views, as established by polls, of the majority of the population. The Sun's anger, and its suggestion that concerned readers pursue the MPs responsible, seems on the face of it justifiable. In a third case, the influence of able popular journalists who have managed to make East Timor a serious issue for at least some ordinary British people was evident in the women who smashed up a Hawk warplane, John Filger, noted among the champions of East Timor, was one of the Daily Mirror's stars when he was on that paper's staff and is a powerful advocate of committed, opinion-leading journalism. The idea of a radical popular journalism, able to influence the course of justice, something that in Britain goes back to Wilkes and before, undoubtedly links all three of these cases, even if many who read neither paper will prefer the old Mirror rather than the Sun version of that tradition.

That newspapers influence public opinion, often fastens on issues of justice and sometimes influences juries, that governments sometimes pay heed to such opinion and sometimes fail to do so is not new. What is different is that these familiar exchanges are taking place in a changed and perhaps degraded political arena. Governments, it can be



argued, have lost much of their moral confidence and their respect for continuity and what has been bequeathed to them by the past, but not their willingness or determination to use and hold their own. Peoples, similarly, have lost much of their readiness to defer to authority, to expert knowledge, to intelligence, or to standards laid down by spiritual leaders. The result on both sides is a loss of perspective, a deficiency of constitutional and historical understanding, and a loosened grasp of the complexity of the considerations that ought to go into political decisions. Whether

there is a public opinion in the old sense is a matter of dispute. That meant, ideally, an opinion which arose from much local, party-sponsored, and largely unmanaged talk and debate - what came out of the coffee house, the congregation, and the town meeting. It was also an opinion that emerged among people who had a strong conception of the public interest, of what was good for all, as well as of the interests of their own classes and region. Public opinion now is notoriously influenced so much by polling, marketing, and manipulation for political or commercial pur-

poses that it is often hard to tell what is, as it were, original, and what induced. The device of active debate and protest - the meeting, the press campaign, even the petition - are the same as those of the advertising or public relations agency. In this more confusing world, the key question becomes how to ensure the authenticity of public opinion. We have powerful and well-informed special issue campaigns, but a general public opinion that is often emotional and resentful more than anything else. This is also an opinion which, in the spirit of the age, balks at any

moral restraint on personal gratification, including the kind of gratification which comes with revenge, which is why it is so often in favour of extreme measures against crime. Governments which bend to public opinion in word but usually not in deed feel that resentment. There is a market in distrust. Tabloid newspapers know it well, seeking constantly to discover areas where government is out of fit with popular views, whether on crime or the economy. And, almost by virtue of their necessary obsession with huge circulation, tabloids embrace the idea that numbers in politics matter more than anything else. What the arithmetical majority wants is what, they seem usually to say, it should get. Exactly 100 years ago, the Irish sage William Lecky, in Democracy and Liberty, examined these very issues, observing that "the public opinion of a nation is something quite different from the votes that can be extracted from all concerned in any contest"; that these votes could be influenced by "money and drink", or "persistent appeals to class cupidities" or by newspapers whose sole purpose is "to set the many against the few". The question Lecky wrote, "whether, at the last resort, the world should be governed by its ignorance or by its intelligence".

It is a question that, by its nature, can never be finally answered in a democracy. The issue has usually been outflanked by suggesting that the people as a whole pronounce, at election time, on the strategic aims of policy, that the groups most vitally concerned in any decision should have a chance for a special say, and that government and public institutions decide on the means toward those ends. Yet means are not neutral. Even public opinion would ban handguns, that in America would not do so. Capital punishment, the most commonly quoted instance of the conflict between what public opinion wants and what a liberal elite will not concede, can be presented as a technical matter - what is the best way to limit the number of murders - but it is also a moral issue, indeed the supreme moral issue.

Public opinion and democratic government are two sides of the same coin. They rise together, they fall together. Good government knows when to accede to public opinion and when to resist it. And good public opinion, it might be said, knows when to content itself with complaint and when to insist. The press, and not only the tabloid press, may sometimes drive us toward simplistic and vengeful solutions. But it is also true that even the most commercialised press may be driven, in part by the logic of its own commercial needs, to open up arguments about the responsibility of governments and about the uses of power - about East Timor as well as about life imprisonment for children - that will eventually benefit democracy.

GIVE YOUR MUM THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE. AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHAT SHE GAVE YOU.

Remember when you were a child. The grazed knees. The nightmares. The measles. Who was always there to look after you? Mum. She always took the best care of you she could. Now you can do the same for her. You can find the best possible nursing home for your mum, or indeed any elderly relative, simply by calling BUPA CareFinder, the free Nursing Home Advisory Service. You will talk to sympathetic, experienced nurse advisors who will analyse your relative's care needs and provide you with details of BUPA inspected and accredited homes. Call 0645 600 300 quoting reference GN1 local rate to find out more about this free service, which is open to everyone, not just BUPA members. BUPA CareFinder Nursing Home Advisory Service.

the natural counterparts of this | superiority, we have seen...

10 OBITUARIES

Claudette Colbert

Sex with a funny feeling

CLAUDETTE Colbert, who has died aged 92, was one of the greatest Hollywood stars of the 1930s, a leading exponent of screwball comedy who also proved adept in costume drama. If the enduring image of her will always be as the hitch-hiking runaway heiress in Frank Capra's *It Happened One Night*, her bath in *sex's milk* in Cecil B de Mille's *The Sign of the Cross* lies at the other extreme.

Colbert was born in Paris, but her parents, Georges and Jeanne Chauchoin, took Claudette to America when she was three. She was educated at Washington Irving High School, New York, then studied at the Art Students League before making her stage debut as Sybil Blake in *The Wild West* in 1923. She toured in several other plays, including *The Marriage of Figaro* and *We've Got to Have Money*, then played for a year on Broadway as Ginevra in *A Kiss in the Taxi*. In 1927, she appeared opposite Walter Huston as Lou in *The Sign of the Cross*, the play that brought her to London for the first time the

following year. Back in New York, she was in *Fast Life*, *The Fan Alley*, *Dynamo* and finally in, September 1929, *See Naples and Die* — her last stage appearance for 20 years.

Claudette Colbert made her first Hollywood film in 1930, *For the Love of Mike*, co-starring Ben Lyon and directed by Frank Capra. She arrived on the scene, with five years' stage experience, just at the moment when studios were panicking about the transition from silent to sound movies.

Before the technique of dubbing had been perfected, many films were shot in simultaneous two-language versions. The French or German cast would be standing by, to replace the American players, as each scene was shot twice. Colbert, bilingual and with a voice that recorded well, was cast opposite Maurice Chevalier in one of his first films, *The Big Pond*. As *La Grande Mer*, it was given a full-scale premiere in New York. Colbert's performance as the American heiress who meets Chevalier on board ship and helps him to write a hit song (*You*

Brought a New Kind of Love to Me, by Sammy Fain), launched her on a successful film career.

After a few other films, notably Dorothy Arzner's *Honor Among Lovers*, Colbert was teamed with Chevalier again in Ernst Lubitsch's *The Smiling Lieutenant*. One of the most perfect of the early Hollywood operetta-films, this was adapted by Oscar Straus from the musical *A Water Dream*. Colbert played Frauti, the leader of an all-girls string orchestra playing in a Vienna Heurigen. The script — unusually for then, or any time — allowed the original and ending, in which Frauti is abandoned by her dashing lover, who settles for marriage with a princess (played by Miriam Hopkins). When the film was revived for the first time since the second world war, a packed house at the National Film Theatre caught its breath as Colbert uttered the line: "Girls who stay for breakfast seldom get invited back for supper."

As *Nero's Empress*, Poppea in *The Sign of the Cross* in 1932, Colbert seemed destined for a future as glamorous, wicked vamps. She was rescued by James Cruze, who cast her as the daughter of a drunken sea-captain who specialises in smuggling illegal immigrants, *I Cover the Waterfront*. Reviewing it, Graham Greene wrote: "There are scenes which give the picture veracity, the daughter waiting in the cheap brothel to take her father home, quite naturally exchanging friendly words with the big blonde madams... a bit raw and a bit sentimental, the film does let life in through the cracks."

Tonight is Ours (adapted from Noel Coward's *The Queen was in the Parlor*), *Three Corners Moon* and two more films for Cecil B de Mille followed — *Four-Fringed People* and then the title role in *Cleopatra*, with another dizzying image, Cleopatra aboard her barge, reclining with Caesar while a group of African drummers beat out an accompaniment. When Frank Capra teamed Colbert with Clark Gable in *It Happened One Night* he achieved the same sort of electricity on screen that had already been a success when other broadly American actors had been shown to have a spectacular chemical reaction with exotic, vaguely European stars (Gary Cooper and Marlene Dietrich, Gable and Garbo, and later Bogart and Bergman). Colbert won an Academy Award for her role as Ellie Andrews, and although this made the possibility of her being forever typecast as muscled heiresses a danger, she continued to demonstrate her versatility in *Imitation of Life* (the story of a black girl passing as white), *Private Worlds*, a story set in a psychiatric hospital, and a psy-



Smart, canny, smooth and glamorous... Claudette Colbert, indefatigable actress from the 1920s onward

PHOTOGRAPH: KOBAL COLLECTION

The films in her life



Funny girl... Colbert with Gable in *It Happened One Night*

- For the Love of Mike, 1927; The Hole in the Wall, 1928; The Lady Lies, 1929
- The Big Pond, 1930; Young Man of Manhattan, 1930; The Marriage of Figaro, 1930; Honor Among Lovers, 1931; The Smiling Lieutenant, 1931; Secrets of a Secretary, 1931; His Woman, 1931; The Wiser Sex, 1932; Misleading Lady, 1932; The Man from Yesterday, 1932; The Sign of the Cross, 1932; Tonight is Ours, 1932; I Cover the Waterfront, 1933; Three-Cornered Moon, 1933; Torch Singer, 1933; Four Frightened People, 1934; It Happened One Night, 1934; Cleopatra, 1934; Imitation of Life, 1934; The Gilded Lily, 1935; Private Worlds, 1935; The Married Men Game, 1935; The Bride Comes Home, 1935; Under Two Flags, 1936; Maid of Salem, 1937; Met Him in Paris, 1937; Tovarich, 1937; Bluebeard's Eighth Wife, 1938; Zaza, 1939;
- Midnight, 1939; It's a Wonderful World, 1939; Drums Along the Mohawk, 1939
- Boom Town, 1940; Arise My Love, 1940; Svyarik, 1941; Remember the Day, 1941; The Palm Beach Story, 1942; So Proudly We Hail, 1943; No Time for Love, 1943; Since You Went Away, 1944; Practically Yours, 1944; Guest Wife, 1945; Tomorrow is Forever, 1946; Without Reservations, 1946; The Secret Heart, 1946; The Egg and I, 1947; Sleep My Love, 1948; Family Honeymoon, 1948; Bride for Sale, 1949
- Three Came Home, 1950; The Secret Fury, 1950; Thunder on the Hill, 1951; Let's Make It Legal, 1951; The Planter's Wife, 1952; Daughters of Destiny, 1953; Royal Affairs in Versailles, 1954; Texas Lady, 1955
- Farrish, 1961
- The Two Mrs Grenvilles, 1966 (TV movie)

chic version of Ouida's *Under Two Flags*, in which Colbert as the *utandere*, dies in the embrace of Ronald Colman, who asks her if she is suffering pain. "Not when I'm in your arms," she replies — delivered with a superb low contralto tone.

In the late 1930s, Colbert appeared in three of her most enjoyable films, Ernst Lubitsch's *Bluebeard's Eighth Wife*, Mitchell Leisen's *Midnight*, where her leading man was John Barrymore and Don Ameche ("I had a feeling you had a feeling," Colbert's line to Ameche, became one of her most famous utterances), and then George Cukor's *Zaza*. This was the only film in which Colbert sang a solo number, provided for her by the great Friedrich Hollaender. Cukor had her coached by Fanny Brice, to achieve an authentic vaudeville feel — in the story she is part of a song and dance team with Bert Lahr. Cukor remembered (in his book with Gevin Lambert): "Claudette

became a very skilful comedienne in pictures, but she used only part of her great talent. She had a much bigger range than she chose to show."

Although producers in the 1940s cast her in more dramatic parts, in films such as Mitchell Leisen's *Arise My Love*, *Tomorrow is Forever* (with Orson Welles) and the immensely popular *Since You Went Away*, only one of her films from this decade has achieved classic status, and that is Preston Sturges's *The Palm Beach Story*.

REVIEWING the film in the *New Statesman* in 1942, William Whitebait wrote: "The sequences of the Ale and Quail Club travelling by train with their guns and dogs — in the end they shoot every glass in the bar and view-hallo down the corridors — are delicious. Sturges has a drastic hand in comedy... his heroine trips in pyjamas a foot too long, but the touch is warm... Miss

Colbert at her most irresistible."

The late 1940s found Colbert cast as Shirley Temple's mother (in *Since You Went Away*), and then in such forgettable films as *The Egg and I*, *Family Honeymoon* and *Bride for Sale*. Her return to the stage was in Noel Coward's *Island Fling* at the Country Playhouse, Westport, Connecticut. Although well received by the critics — "Her handling of the drunk scene was deft and delicious, taking the sting out of it, but never losing character," wrote George Freedley — Colbert did not reappear on Broadway until 1956, when she took over from Margaret Sullivan in *Janus*.

She had meanwhile appeared on television opposite Noel Coward himself in *Billie's Spirit*, co-starring with Lauree Bacall. Like many before and after her, Colbert incurred Coward's wrath by not arriving word-perfect, insisting on being photographed from her "best side"

and, as Coward wrote in his diary, "she wore tangerine lace, black and pearls and a grey ghost dress that would have startled Gypsy Rose Lee". At the final rehearsal, Colbert told Coward: "Don't worry dear, you'll never have to see me again after Saturday." Nevertheless, they remained friends when Coward moved to Jamaica.

Colbert's final films were Sacha Guitry's *Si Versailles M'était Conté* — in which she played Mme de Moinsson — and then a mother role in *Parish* in 1960. After that she confined her appearances to the stage. On Broadway, she appeared in *Marriage-Go-Round*, *The Irregular Verb To Love*, and, as late as 1978, co-starring with Rex Harrison in *The Kingfisher*. The two of them were starred again in London in 1984 in a revival of Frederick Lonsdale's *Arise My Love*. After half-way back in the stalls at the Haymarket, Colbert appeared only slightly older than she had in the 1940s.

Twice married — in 1923 to the actor Norman Foster and then in 1935 to Dr Joel J Pressman, who died in 1968 — Colbert became a social lioness at her Bellevue retreat in Barbados. In 1962, Louise Brooks commented to John Kobal: "I hear the Ragans are visiting Claudette Colbert... where'd she get all that dough?"

Kobal called Colbert "one of the shrewdest women in Hollywood", and her contemporary, Irene Dunne, wrote: "She'd finish a movie on Saturday and begin wondering what she was doing on Monday. I lacked that terrifying ambition." For Hedda Hopper, who played with Claudette Colbert in *Midnight* in 1930, she was "the smartest, canniest, smoothest 16-carat lady I've ever seen cross the Hollywood pike."

Patrick O'Connor
Claudette Lily Chauchoin (Colbert), actress, born September 13, 1903; died July 30, 1996

Roger Tory Peterson

Inspirational flight of an artist

THE contribution to the conservation and understanding of birds made by Roger Tory Peterson, who has died aged 87, may not be as well known as that of John James Audubon, America's most famous painter of birds, but his significant Peterson was instrumental in increasing the general public's interest in birds, particularly in North America but also on this side of the Atlantic. The key to this was his creation of the Field Guide System of schematic illustrations of species in which the key identification characters were indicated by an arrow.

The 22-year-old Peterson was counting ducks on the Hudson River in December 1930 with a fellow birder, William Vogt, who was so impressed with the speed, accuracy and confidence with which his colleague could identify birds that he suggested he produce a guide for birdwatchers. Vogt recalled that he was more excited than Peterson and undertook, "with no justification whatsoever", to find a publisher.

A *Field Guide to the Birds* was published by Houghton Mifflin in 1934. Vogt had approached five publishers, before approaching Boston's most prestigious firm. However, thanks to a meeting between Francis Allen, an editor with the company, and Richard H Pough, of the National Audubon Society, Peterson reached the publishers before Vogt's letter. Allen wanted a guarantee that the firm would not lose money on the project, to which Pough responded that he was so sure of the book's success he would have put the money up himself.

Within a week of publication the entire print run of

2,000 copies had been sold. Birders were enthusiastic about the virtually unknown author's work. Frank Chap, of the American Museum of Natural History, one of the most influential ornithologists on the East Coast, said that 20 copies of the book could not have been written, because "at that time, bird identification was largely

Peterson left school at 16, using his talents at art as a furniture decorator in town, then a centre of furniture making.

In his spare time, Peterson watched birds and painted. When he submitted two paintings to an exhibition at the American Ornithologists Union in New York in 1925, he met Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

In later life Peterson became a keen photographer, relishing the ease of taking a picture rather than drawing or painting from observation. But he still regarded himself, essentially, as a painter

summer vacations as a camp counsellor in Maine, which led to him being appointed in 1931 as an assistant master at a preparatory school in Brookline, a suburb of Boston. Teaching the sons of Boston society was an education for Peterson and he admitted that it smoothed away some of the rough edges.

In 1934, he joined the staff of the National Audubon Society. There he worked first as a designer and artist and later as education director.

After war service in the US Corps of Engineers, when he worked on training manuals and developed an aircraft recognition programme based on his Field Guide System, he turned to writing. He also revised the original field guide, produced a guide to Western birds and edited a series of field guides for Houghton Mifflin.

In 1950, a meeting with James Fisher, then natural history editor at Collins, led to a *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, a collaboration between Peterson and the British ornithologist Guy Mountfort and P A D Hollom. It has been in print continuously since 1954, and is now in its fifth edition. Published in 13 languages, it has sold more than one million copies. Peterson revised his illustrations for new editions, but although he regarded his revisions as improvements, some disliked them. He realised that birdwatchers had begun to see birds as he had drawn them, not as they were in life. When I told him I was disappointed at the first Alpine acclimatization, because it was not such a smart bird as his illustration, he explained that the illustration was based on skins and photographs rather than personal experience.

Peterson's stay in Europe brought him into contact with the leading naturalists of the day. On one trip to Hillyre Island in the Dee Estuary, recalled by the late Eric Hosking, Peterson was discussing the birds they had seen that day. The conversation broadened to the history of the island, a keen bird photographer, related a dramatic wartime meeting between Stalin and Churchill that he had witnessed. The rest of the group listened attentively, except Peterson. When Alanbrooke had finished, there was a pause and Peterson spoke: "I know, I guess these oystercatchers eat most my molluscs."

His single-minded approach to his work did not make Peterson's personal life easy. He married Mildred Washington in 1936, but she did not share his almost obsessive interest in nature and the marriage was dissolved in 1942. In 1943, he married an Audubon colleague, Barbara Coulter, who contributed much to his post-war achievements. They divorced in 1976, and Peterson married Virginia Quinlan Westervelt the same year.

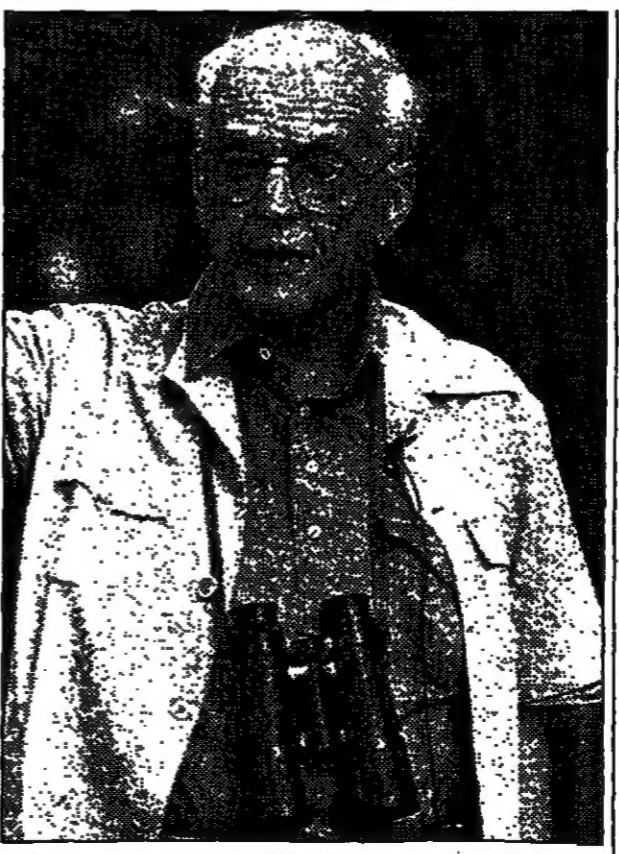
In return for James Fisher having taken Peterson around Europe, he proposed that they make a trip around North America. They started in Newfoundland and travelled to the Yukon Delta and the Pribilofs, via Mexico. The 100-day, 30,000-mile trip resulted in *Wild America* (1956), written by Peterson and Fisher and illustrated by Peterson.

In later life, Peterson became a keen photographer, relishing the ease of taking a photograph rather than drawing or painting from observation. Photography became a preoccupation and he claimed to enjoy it more than painting,

but still regarded himself, essentially, as a painter.

In the current issue of the *American magazine Bird Watcher's Digest*, Peterson writes about the history of American wildlife painting and perhaps betrays some doubt about his status as an artist as opposed to an illustrator. "Most people think of my work in terms of my rather formal field guide illustrations, but those represent only one aspect of my painting," he promised to describe other aspects of his work in the next issue.

Whatever doubt Peterson had about his work, he will be remembered both for the concept of field guides and for the illustrations he produced. The interest in birdwatching which Peterson's guides have aroused over the last 50 years has, some claim, increased the range of North American birds such as cardinals and tufted titmice, as more households have put out food for them. That is quite an epitaph.



Peterson... a huge contribution to popular interest in ornithology. His *Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe* (published by Collins), a plate from which is shown, left, has sold more than a million copies

Letter

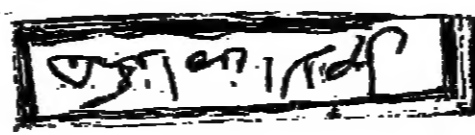
Wynne Williams writes: Jack Wallace *Coburn*, July 26 would not have died "of Parkinson's Disease". As a sufferer for more than 10 years myself, I know that one of the few but vital scraps of comfort we have is the knowledge that it is not in itself a fatal disease. It is therefore extremely important that everyone, and particularly those newly diagnosed with the disease, are fully aware of this fundamental fact.

Birthdays

- Lionel Bart, composer, lyricist, 66; Derek Birdsall, graphic designer and typographer, 62; Karen Black, actress, 54; Frank Hauser, stage director, 74; Mervyn Kilchen, cricket umpire, 66; Jack Kramer, tennis champion, 75; Prof Monty Losowsky, gastroenterologist, 65; Stanley Middleton, novelist, 77; Prof Wyndraeth Morris-Jones, political scientist, 78; Patrick Nizon, High Commissioner to Zambia, 52; Richard Pearson, actor, 78; Prof Ben Roberts, industrial relations expert, 78; Yuri Romanenko, Soviet cosmonaut, 62; Andy Roxburgh, football coach, 53; Yves Saint Laurent, haute couturier, 60; Jeffrey Segal, actor and playwright, 76; The Rt Rev Prof Stephen Sykes, Bishop of Ely, 57; Prof Laurie Taylor, sociologist and broadcaster, 60; Gwyn Ward Thomas, former chairman, Trident Television, 78; Robert Thomas, sculptor, 78; Elizabeth Vernon, lawyer, 32; Mark Wright, footballer, 33

Engagements

NICHOLAS HAMMOND
Roger Tory Peterson, ornithologist and artist, born August 28, 1905; died July 26, 1996



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Stagecoach plans rail raid

£475m bid raises monopoly fear

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

RAIL industry regulators last night warned that the rapidly expanding bus and train company, Stagecoach, could strangle competition with its £475 million bid for one of Britain's three train leasing companies.

consolidation in the industry, enabling Stagecoach to run trains and lease rolling stock to its rivals. The Office of Fair Trading must now draw up a report for the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang, who will then decide whether to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

rolling stock would be provided to rival operators, and Stagecoach offered undertakings to satisfy these concerns.

Acquisitive Scots

Perth-based Stagecoach has rapidly expanded since its flotation in 1993, before which it had taken advantage of deregulation of the bus industry to steal a march over many of its rivals.

- Wendell Bus Company bought in 1987 for £2.2 million
Wible Bus Company bought in 1989
Gill Buses South (South Manchester) bought for £40.7 million
Devoes and General and Bayline for £16.1 million
Carnegie Holdings for £12.6 million
East Midlands Bus companies for £15.8 million
Cleveland Transit and rest of Knapgate-Upper Hill Transport for £2.36 million
South East London and Kent Bus Company for £9.5 million
Portsmouth Citybus, Lancashire City Transport and Farnside (Huddersfield and District)
South West Trains, and rail franchises

the implications of the deal. He said that Labour would look carefully at the report of the rail regulator, John Swift, on the effect of the takeover on passenger competition and investment.

Brian Souter, executive chairman of Stagecoach, said he had decided to buy Porterbrook after dealing with it as a supplier for South West Trains, which provides services out of Waterloo in London to the South-west.

precise the significant role which Porterbrook will play in the industry," he declared.

The deal will be the largest sale of a privatised rail business, second only to the flotation of Railtrack, the track and signalling company. Stagecoach said it plans to bid for another 12 rail franchises. Porterbrook is the smallest of the three train leasing companies, with 3,774 rolling stock vehicles and 50 staff.

Notebook

The Names' game draws to a close



Edited by Mark Milner

IT'S make-your-mind-up time at Lloyd's, Names have been given 28 days to accept a package billed as "final" and which, this time, more than likely will be. Would it matter if enough of the 34,000 Names voted down the package, raising the spectre of insolvency over the market?

refinance those borrowings and help finance the deal.

Once the deal is done, Stagecoach, with help from UBS, will parcel up the debt into tradable bonds (effectively 101% — a process known in the City as securitisation — which will then be sold off to investors. The securitisation package could provide up to £350 million worth of debt refinancing.

The offer



£12,370 for chairman David Rowland, £260,000 for Marie-Louise Burrows and £278,000 for Michael Deeny

The sources

Table with 2 columns: Source, Amount (£m). Includes Managing and members' agents (245), Names special levy (440), Errors & Omissions underwriters (600), etc.

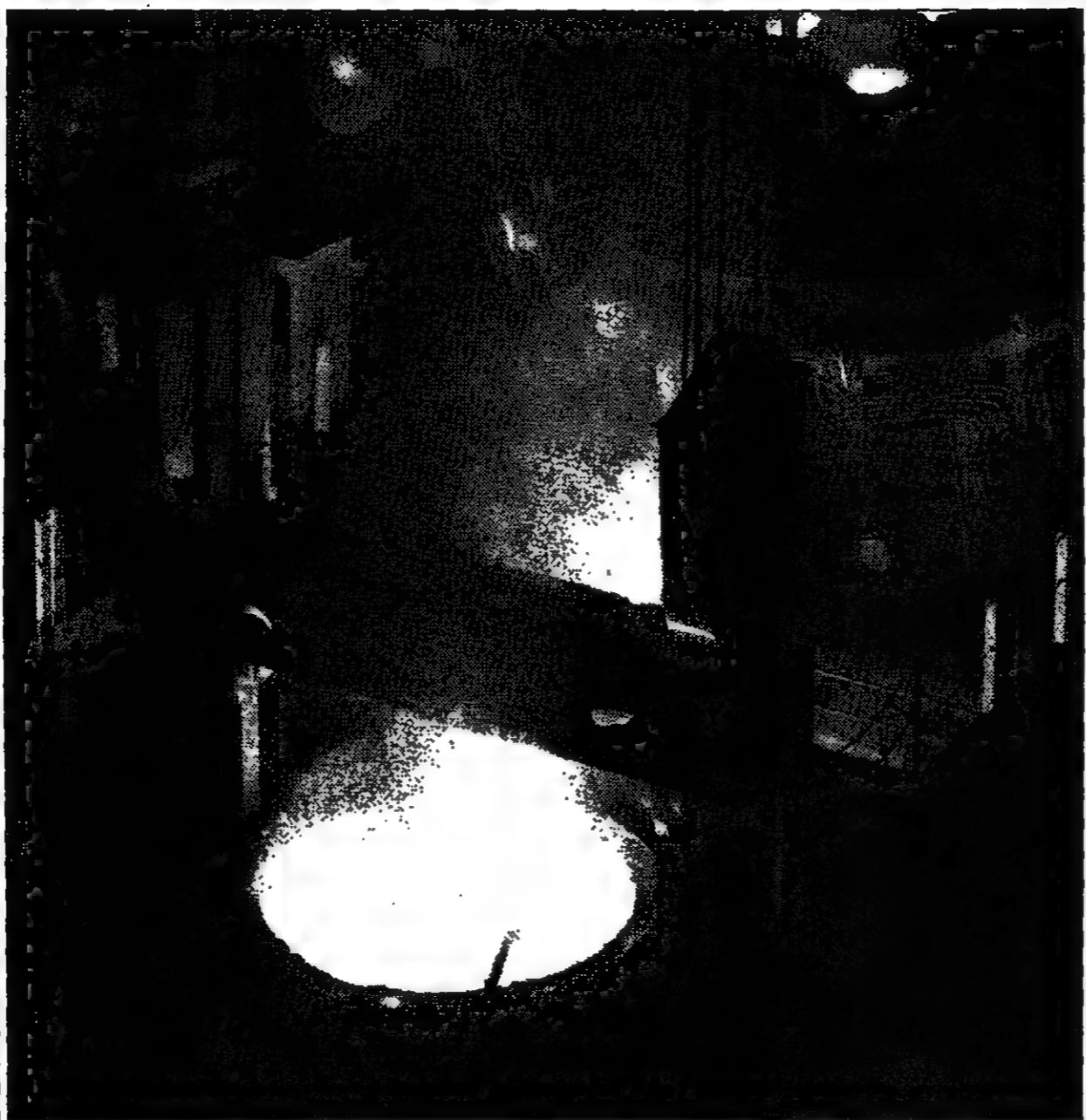
Lloyd's final offer is council members' gain

Lisa Buckingham

SEVEN members of the ruling council of Lloyd's of London, including the chairman David Rowland, will benefit by a collective £1.25 million from the reconstruction package, final details of which were sent to Names yesterday.

Financial help to offset the losses of council members became public as Lloyd's announced its £4.000 underwriting investors that those who refused to accept the settlement — which is thought to have cost about £160 million in professional fees and additional staffing so far — would be "aggressively pursued" for their liabilities.

TEACHERS' BUILDING SOCIETY NOTICE TO INVESTORS. Table with interest rates for various terms: 1 MONTHER 0.05%, 3 MONTHER 0.05%, etc.



Now for our next trick... workers from closed steelworks, such as Tinsley Park, Sheffield, will retrain on EU schemes

Jobs go

Insurance and retail staff axed

Ian Wylie

TWO thousand jobs were put in danger yesterday when cuts were announced by Royal & Sun Alliance, the insurer, and the TV and video retailer Colorvision.

denied by the finance union Biffa. "R&SA staff are being made to pay the price for the merger just to satisfy shareholders' demands for profits," said a spokeswoman.

Another 3,700 job losses are expected within the next few months as part of the company's restructuring plans to save £175 million a year.

ger at Colorvision, which has struggled to trade within its overdraft limit following poor sales and a run-in with the Office of Fair Trading in January.

R&SA is to close 94 branch offices by the end of the year with the loss of 300 jobs. The company — Britain's newest and largest composite insurer — created last month from the £6 billion merger of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance.

The job cuts were condemned by the finance union Biffa. "R&SA staff are being made to pay the price for the merger just to satisfy shareholders' demands for profits," said a spokeswoman.

Another 3,700 job losses are expected within the next few months as part of the company's restructuring plans to save £175 million a year.

ger at Colorvision, which has struggled to trade within its overdraft limit following poor sales and a run-in with the Office of Fair Trading in January.

Jobs come

Brussels gives ex-steel towns £20m

Chris Harris
Business Correspondent

ALMOST 2,000 jobs and 225 new businesses will be created in the North of England following the European Commission's decision to award £20 million to English regions hit by steel closures.

then the areas have lost more than 10,000 jobs in 10 years through steelwork closures. The award, which has to be matched by private and public sector funds, is more than three times greater than aid given under a previous programme, which expired in 1992.

Roger Stone, chairman of Steel Action, a coalition of local authorities from steel regions, said his organisation had fought for the cash for more than a year.

The investment would lead to the reclamation of 70 hectares (28 acres) of industrial land and refurbishment of 10 buildings on former steel sites. New technology and markets would be introduced to 1,700 small businesses, and 500 training places made available to ex-employees of the steel industry and their families.

Home repossessions dip but human misery goes on

Margaret Hughes
Personal Finance Editor

The number of homes repossessed by mortgage lenders fell slightly in the first half of this year. But this still means that almost 1,000 are going each week, despite the reported pick-up in the housing market.

ter news, for the situation is at least stable.

He pointed to "good news" on the arrears front, where there have been sharp falls, with total arrears down 10 per cent on the second half of last year and 15 per cent lower than a year ago. But Mr Coles expressed concern that once the full effect of last year's cut-backs in the income support mortgage safety net began to be felt, "this could have a detrimental impact on the attempts by both lenders and borrowers to manage mortgage arrears".

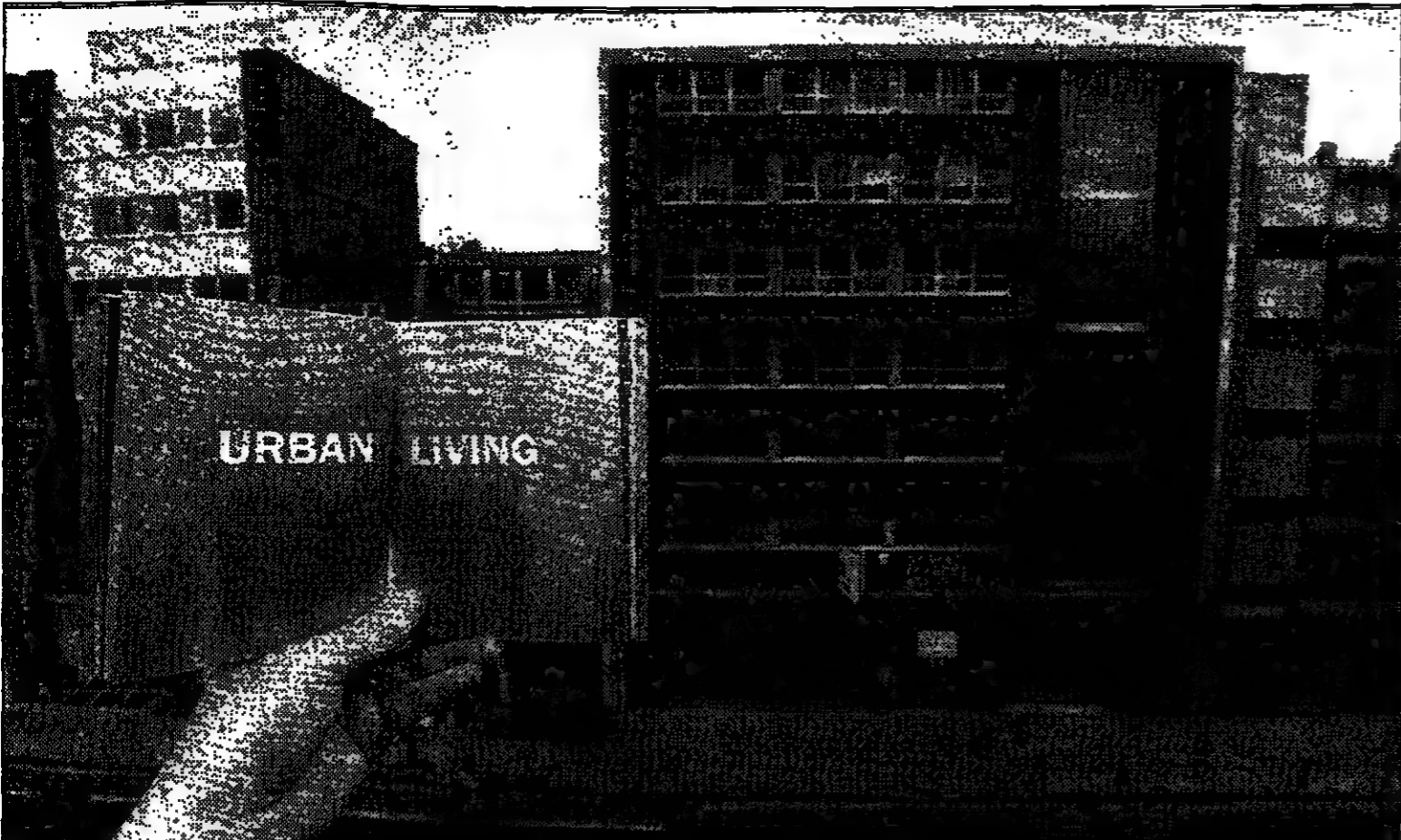
Figures published yesterday by the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that 34,100 homes were taken into possession in the first six months of this year. This was 110 fewer than in the second half of last year and 1,100 less than a year ago, when repossessions rose for the first time in almost four years.

The Shadow Housing Minister, Nick Raynsford, argued that the latest figures showed "the Tories have done nothing to stem this tide of human misery".

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Table with 4 columns: Country, Bank Sell Rate, Date, and another rate. Includes Australia 1.9539, Austria 15.82, etc.

Vertical text on the right edge: the natural counterparts of this... Promoting equal opportunities... FIA SAA.



Marketing patter that gets over even the trickiest block

IN MARKETING, there are always challenges: promoting the Princess of Wales, or the Sheffield nuclear reprocessing plant. Then there is a real challenge — selling what is

probably London's ugliest building, writes Dan Atkinson. Sixty-six St John Street, in the no-man's land between the City and Islington, is a post-war office

block that gives post-war office blocks a bad name. Box-shaped and featureless, it could be the admin department of a provincial university or a secondary modern school. It could be almost anything, but it couldn't be a block of luxury flats. Could it? Yes, according to Ivory Gate, the developer so de-

termined to lure discerning, wealthy, people to live there that it has published an expensive all-colour hardback book (above) packed with photographs and fairly free-associating text praising the site. The office block is dead, long live the 14-flat development that is "heading towards the 21st century".

Cream missing as Dairy Crest floats shares

Roger Cowe. **D**AIRY Crest, the former Milk Marketing Board subsidiary, became the latest victim of the stock market's lack of enthusiasm for new issues when it announced yesterday that its share price would be only 155p. The price values the company at £171 million, below earlier expectations, which had been in the range of £200 million to £250 million.

Investors have been wary of these issues because of doubts about the underlying value of the companies in the face of difficult product markets. Several companies, notably in the biotechnology sector, have been forced to abandon planned flotations. Allied Carpets fared reasonably well, but was forced to float at a price below original intentions, as was British Energy. The Somerfield supermarket group had to cut its announced price twice to enable the issue to be underwritten. Unlike Somerfield, Dairy Crest did not suffer the indignity of publicly having to reduce its offer price, since the company had not previously indicated a flotation value. But John Aston of

BAT celebrates as 338 billion cigarettes help create surprise profits increase

Ian King. **B**AT Industries, the cigarettes and financial services combine, yesterday shrugged off weakness in certain tobacco markets with a better-than-expected jump in first half pre-tax profits to £1.33 billion.

The 13 per cent improvement, far better than most City forecasters had expected, sent BAT shares up 23p to 504p. Chairman Lord Cairns said BAT was making good progress, adding that the group's restructuring into two distinct businesses would help growth. On the tobacco side, where BAT's international brands include Benson & Hedges, Lucky Strike, Kent, and State Express 555, trading profits rose by 7 per cent on last year's record performance to £784 million, fuelled by the sale of 338 billion cigarettes worldwide — a 4 per cent improvement — during the first half of the year. Commenting on potential litigation problems in the US, Lord Cairns said the climate of opinion remained extremely hostile ahead of this year's presidential election, despite what he called the tobacco industry's "attempt to get science back into the debate". Meanwhile, on the financial services side, where BAT recently "rolled-up" its brands — including Allied Dunbar, Threadneedle Asset Management and Eagle Star — into one umbrella company, profits rose by 3 per cent to £554 million, despite losses on the British underwriting side.

Glaxo in need of a tonic

OUTLOOK/More products required as Zantac sales fall, says Roger Cowe

GLAXO'S acquisition of Wellcome last year was widely seen as a defensive move to protect the company from the rapid sales decline of ulcer drug Zantac. Chief executive Sir Richard Sykes put it more positively, as a way of keeping ahead in a consolidating drug industry and of achieving greater efficiencies essential to stay competitive. Both were probably true, and both are evident in a confusing set of results for the first six months of the year, published yesterday. On the face of it, the take-over has been a resounding success, with profits bounding ahead and a substantial increase in sales. But, in fact, the results hide as much as they reveal. This is because last year's figures include Wellcome for only part of the period, the fact that they include the £700 million reorganisation charge, and because of unusual trading patterns both last year and this. On a more comparable basis, the picture is less vibrant, but still very positive.

Sales are 5 per cent higher, excluding all the distortions while trading profits were up by a third, with the profit margin rising from 31 per cent to 39 per cent. Sir Richard described the results as "a tangible demonstration of integration savings coming through". It seems churlish, therefore, for investors to drive down the share price. But, once again, all is not as it seems and there were a number of disappointments. First, sales growth of 5 per cent was a long way short of the 9 per cent which had been reported for the first quarter at the annual meeting. In particular, the decline of Zantac in the US appears to have accelerated rapidly in the past couple of months. Second, Glaxo stressed that the growth in profit margin was unusual and would not be sustained in the second half of the year. Third, there was no increase in the interim dividend. Zantac's decline underlines why Glaxo needed to bolster its product portfolio. It remains by far the largest product, a quarter of total sales with more than

£1 billion in the six months. But that was a fall of 16 per cent and more than a fifth down on last year in the most important market, the US. But some see this as a bonus. The slightly twisted logic is that the bigger the fall in sales now, the smaller the fall in sales next year, when the first patent ends in the US. The trouble is that Zantac is so big a product, even for the combined group, that its decline will remain crucial to Glaxo Wellcome's performance for several years, as the comparison with new products illustrates. Sir Richard was at pains to stress the growth of new products yesterday, which offset Zantac's fall and left total sales up. Drugs launched since 1990 saw sales grow by just over half in the period. Even so, the total sales of such products were still only 432 million, less than the ulcer drug brought in. The stars have been migraine drug Imigran and the AIDS treatment Epivir, which has been successful in combination with Wellcome's original product Retrovir. Nevertheless, only Imigran

appears in the group's top five drugs, while the low growth of the others emphasises why more like that are badly needed. Herpes treatment Zovirax has disappointed over the past couple of years, as have some of the smaller products such as Zofran (for nausea) and Valtrex, which was supposed to take over from Zovirax. Sir Richard trumpeted the imminent launch in the US of four new products during the current six-month period, led by migraine tablets. "The future of the business is all about growth from new products," he said, while warning that those launches will boost marketing expenditure and cut profit margins. In the longer term, Glaxo is said to be panicky about biotechnology, worried that it lags major rivals such as SmithKline Beecham. However, Sir Richard showed no such panic yesterday. He accepted that genetics will have an important role to play in many areas and that what counts is being plugged into genetic research, rather than the acquisition of some wildly-overvalued biotech companies.

Glaxo Wellcome

Stock market value £21.5 bn
Share price 504.5p VPL5p
Workforce 52,000
Interest cover 18

Year	£	% change
Sales	4,188m	+16
Pre-tax profit	1,824m	+39
Earnings before interest & tax	2,077m	+38
Dividend	112m	+3

Key products

Sales, £m % change

Zantac	800	-16%
Zovirax	400	+5%
Imigran	300	+75%
Verbitin	200	+3%
Zinnat	100	+4%

* At constant exchange rates

ONE WAY

CALL 0990 29 29 29 anytime

Underside

Dan Atkinson

John Prescott is reportedly "fuming" about the failure of Tony Blair's office to consult him before condemning the Tube strike. But a minion assured him it was nothing personal: "The only reason we didn't consult you is that we knew you wouldn't agree."

MEANWHILE, the DSS had its very own media minder at hand on Tuesday when the Pensioners Ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrant, published his annual report. Dr Farrant ran the show pretty well without any help; indeed, the DSS man did not participate in any way. So why was he there? As the spin doctor put it: "To make sure he doesn't say that Peter Lilley is a bastard."

NICE to be wanted (1): SuperMarketing, the food and drink trade mag, welcomes a guest editor this week. David Simons, chief executive of Somerfield. An admirably frank DS comments: "Having been on the receiving end of a rough ride from

the media, it makes a pleasant change to be in the driving seat." (NB: should be serious about this editing lark, he ought to watch his hanging participle.) With Mr Simons' words on the levers, SuperMarketing is producing "a bumper 96-page issue about Somerfield". Will this major investigation make it past Mr Simons, whose duties, we hear, include passing the magazine for press? Somehow we think he'll let it through.

NICE to be wanted (2): Decent of the European Union's script fund (part of Brussels' European media programme) to support BBC1's thrilling four-part *Writing on the Wall*, which concluded this week. The twist in the tale, of course, was that the British were the heroes and not the trigger-happy murderers in their place. No doubt Brussels would have been every bit as generous in its support had the villains turned out to be murderous Europhilic or power-crazed Union commissioners. Even so...

GIVEN the internal squabbling within the leaked "Contract with Britain" document, a course at the Civil Service College catches the eye: in just three weeks mandarin candidates SPATS. Not a how-to-be Bertie Wooster seminar, but "senior professional administrative training", whatever that may be. Still, there's always the two-day harassment course to cheer them up.

£5.95

for a month's Internet Access!

Don't count yourself out - try AOL FREE!

Call AOL NOW & we'll give you a nag-free & no obligation trial of the world's biggest online service.

FREE software!

FREE membership for a month!

FREE 24 hours online!

FREE personal support!

FREE e-mail addresses - 5 per account!

Internet * Email * Games
UK & World News * Travel * Sport
Computing * Digital City * Chat
Kids * Finance * Entertainment

100% local call access at 28.2k access nationwide.

AOL - the Internet and MORE!

CALL 0800 219 1234

Get your FREE trial pack or download your AOL software from the web - <http://www.aol.co.uk>

First Island cuts down

Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.

Racing

First Island finish cuts down Forest

Chris Hawkins sees the Pentire colours flash home to claim another major prize

FIRST Island ran the race of his life to land the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood yesterday, producing a brilliant turn of speed to beat Charwood Forest by a length to give Geoff Wragg and Michael Hills their second Group One victory in five days following Pentire's epic Ascot victory. Wragg certainly has the Indian sign over rival trainer Saeed bin Suroor, who has saddled the runner-up in both races, and there would be no point in the two of them sitting down at a poker table at the moment. Not that the silver-haired Wragg has ever been a bluffer. This most conservative but professional trainer has always got on quietly with the business of producing winners and has consistently come up with horses of the highest calibre. He is as calm as a cucumber in victory as he is philosophic in defeat. He needs some prompting but said of First Island: "He's always been a very nice, versatile horse but has had problems all his life. He put a stiffie out terribly when he was younger but got his right."

The news that First Island stays in training is particularly welcome following the disappointing decision to sell Pentire to Japan. John Ferguson, spokesman for Moller Racing, owner of both animals, defended the sale saying: "Obviously our heart is in England and the money received from Pentire will be re-invested in yearlings. I think that British breeders will benefit." There were no excuses for the defeat of Charwood Forest, the even-money favourite. He struck the front a furlong out but simply could not contain the finishing burst of First Island, ridden with super-confidence by Hills. "I was on the inside but knew I had a nice bit of horse to get out if I got a bit of luck and the gap came," said Hills, who later completed a double on his father's In Command (the first winning favourite of the meeting) in the Selsey Maiden Stakes. Hills is on cloud 12 this season after winning the Derby and King George but has had little time to celebrate: "At this time of year it's very hectic and I'm always in the car. There are a lot of tired jockeys in the weighing room."

Many thought the stewards' decision was harsh but Hills executed a definite manoeuvre and it was, therefore, deemed more serious than mere "careless" riding. Hills only took the mount because Willie Carson failed to pass the doctor after his fall last Friday. "The doctor hummed and hahed," said Carson. "I said I could probably grit my teeth and ride but he said I was getting old and I had had better take things easy." Putra was put in at 20-1 for the 2,000 Guineas by Ladbrokes after a game effort to get the better of Salm. Richard Quinn had earlier won on Southern Power and was partnering his 100 winner of the season on Putra, but could have made things easier for his mount who was twice denied an opening. Paul Cole, the trainer, has the Dewhurst in mind for Putra who is a tall, leggy colt described by his trainer as "a natural athlete". Luca Cumani, the Newmarket trainer who has suspected his luck was in when Grapehot was promoted to second on the disqualification of Salm and it was irrefutably confirmed later in the afternoon when Frequent and Panzetta provided him with a double. Frequent gave Cumani a second win in the Tote Gold Trophy Handicap in three years following the triumph of Midnight Legend in 1994. A Life Of A Lord, drafted up-weight under an inspired ride from Charlie Swan to win yesterday's Galway Plate for the second year running.



Weighing up form... runners for the first race at Goodwood yesterday come under scrutiny PHOTOGRAPH: GEORGE SELWYN

Golden chance for Hills to atone

WITH any sort of a run Almuhim would have won the Bunbury Cup at Newmarket instead of finishing fourth, and he must hold a leading chance in today's Schweppes Golden Mile at Goodwood, writes Chris Hawkins. Richard Hills rode one of his least distinguished races on Almuhim, switching the colt off the rails far too late to trouble the winner Crampton Hill although in the end beaten just over a length. Meeting the third Mull-tower and fifth How Long on the same terms, Almuhim (3-50) is virtually a winner without a penalty. It is quite possible, of course, that as he likes to come from behind he could encounter traffic problems again and there will be plenty ready to take advantage, including the progressive Fregaron who does not mind being in front some way from home. Paul Cole has withdrawn his highly rated, unraced two-year-old The West from the Richmond Stakes which looks best left to Raphane (2-45), who won comfortably at The Curragh after finishing second to Tipcy Creek at Royal Ascot. Three-year-olds get a hefty weight concession in the Goodwood Cup and I take Persian Punch (3-20) to make it count. He clocked a decent time when beating the Queen's Vase runner-up Athény at Newmarket.

Goodwood with form guide for the televised races

Table with race details for Goodwood, including race numbers, names, and form guides.

Salisbury card tonight

Table with race details for Salisbury, including race numbers, names, and form guides.

Yarmouth runners and riders

Table with race details for Yarmouth, including race numbers, names, and form guides.

Doncaster evening programme

Table with race details for Doncaster, including race numbers, names, and form guides.

Results

Table with race results for Goodwood, Doncaster, and other events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely a page number or publication information.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Holmes will risk worse injury in medal quest

Athletics Stephen Bierley

CELIA HOLMES confirmed yesterday that she has a hairline fracture just above her left ankle. But she is prepared to risk long-term damage in pursuit of a medal in Saturday's 1500m final.

tomils out and then had an ovarian cyst removed. Altogether she missed 2 1/2 months of full training and found it physically and mentally difficult getting herself into racing shape again.

It is possible she pushed herself too hard in training to make up the lost ground. She pulled out of her two races in Stockholm and Crystal Palace immediately prior to Atlanta with what was said to be a cold. It now seems likely that her left leg was already causing problems.

Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan, who had been expected to challenge for the gold medal in the 1500m, drifted readily out of the Games yesterday when she finished second-to-last in the second and slowest heat of the 1500. The world 5,000m champion dropped out of that final on Monday, blaming her sudden loss of form on a virus.

Yesterday morning in intensely humid conditions, O'Sullivan remained towards the head of the bunch until the final lap when she was once again left trailing. "I just had no energy whatsoever," she said. "I cannot explain why."

The favourite remains the reigning Olympic and world champion Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria. The fastest of the 34 qualifiers yesterday was Romania's Gabriela Szabo in 4:07.32, with Holmes (1:11) the final medal on Saturday.



Distant figure ... Sonia O'Sullivan trails again, last but one in yesterday's 1500 metres heat and humidity ROSS HENDRICK

Bubka bows out again without a vault or a dollar

Athletics Duncan Mackay

SERGEI BUBKA, a superstar between Olympics, was again reduced to mortality when it mattered. The pole-vaulter who has won five consecutive titles and set more world records than any other athlete in history is almost certain to end his career with only one Olympic title, after an Achilles injury forced him to withdraw from the qualifying competition yesterday without taking a jump.

a great tragedy for me. Yesterday I had two injections but I couldn't run during the warm-up today. Normally I am a fighter but it would have been damaging for me to compete. These two injuries proved that the Olympic Games are not meant for me."

He won his only Olympic gold at Seoul in 1988. By Sydney in 2000 he will be 38. Bubka has broken the world indoor and outdoor records 35 times, usually by a single centimetre to maximum money bonuses from sponsors of around \$30,000. His last world outdoor record was 5.14 metres in Seviere two years ago.

Bubka's absence in today's final should have left the field clear for Olexandr Bulych, the former Soviet and Commonwealth Games athlete to win an Olympic gold medal since the sports boycott was lifted four years ago. But Brits, one of only four men ever to have cleared six metres, was knocked out after failing three times at his opening height of 5.80. He did the same at the Commonwealth Games two years ago. "I don't know what went wrong," he said. "I'm not going to make any excuses because of my foot or anything."

Zenovka again sees gold snatched from his grasp

Modern Robert Woodward

DUARD ZENOVKA had his share of misfortune, but life still seems to enjoy kicking him in the face. The Russian had thrown away the modern pentathlon gold at Barcelona after leading a healthy 106 points going into the final discipline. Unfortunately that was riding, and Zenovka and horses just did not seem to get on. He was thrown twice, lost his hat, built up a war-chest of penalty points for hitting jumps and overrunning the allotted time, and ended up with the bronze medal.

had seemingly accepted he would take only silver. Parrygin raised his arms in surrender but seconds later found a burst of acceleration that took him past the despairing Zenovka in the final 10 metres.

The Russian had thrown away the modern pentathlon gold at Barcelona after leading a healthy 106 points going into the final discipline. Unfortunately that was riding, and Zenovka and horses just did not seem to get on. He was thrown twice, lost his hat, built up a war-chest of penalty points for hitting jumps and overrunning the allotted time, and ended up with the bronze medal.

Six months later Zenovka was involved in a car accident in which his passenger, the world champion rhythmic gymnast Oksana Kostina, was killed. Zenovka was critically injured. Glastonbury had prolonged his career to the age of 36 to try to improve on the team bronze medal he won at the Seoul Games in 1988 but was unable to match previous performances. — Reuters

Tuesday in Atlanta

Table of sports events for Tuesday in Atlanta, including Canoeing, Archery, Badminton, Men's singles, Women's singles, Men's doubles, Women's doubles, Men's 500m kayak singles, Men's 1,000m Canadian singles, Men's 500m kayak fours, Men's 1,000m Canadian pairs, Cycling, Men's mountain bike, Women's mountain bike, Handball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Judo, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Karate, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Kung Fu, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Modern Pentathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Soccer, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Softball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Table Tennis, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Triathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Volleyball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Weightlifting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Yachting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round.

Table of sports events for Wednesday in Atlanta, including Canoeing, Archery, Badminton, Men's singles, Women's singles, Men's doubles, Women's doubles, Men's 500m kayak singles, Men's 1,000m Canadian singles, Men's 500m kayak fours, Men's 1,000m Canadian pairs, Cycling, Men's mountain bike, Women's mountain bike, Handball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Judo, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Karate, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Kung Fu, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Modern Pentathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Soccer, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Softball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Table Tennis, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Triathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Volleyball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Weightlifting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Yachting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round.

Table of sports events for Thursday in Atlanta, including Canoeing, Archery, Badminton, Men's singles, Women's singles, Men's doubles, Women's doubles, Men's 500m kayak singles, Men's 1,000m Canadian singles, Men's 500m kayak fours, Men's 1,000m Canadian pairs, Cycling, Men's mountain bike, Women's mountain bike, Handball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Judo, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Karate, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Kung Fu, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Modern Pentathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Soccer, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Softball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Table Tennis, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Triathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Volleyball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Weightlifting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Yachting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round.

Table of sports events for Friday in Atlanta, including Canoeing, Archery, Badminton, Men's singles, Women's singles, Men's doubles, Women's doubles, Men's 500m kayak singles, Men's 1,000m Canadian singles, Men's 500m kayak fours, Men's 1,000m Canadian pairs, Cycling, Men's mountain bike, Women's mountain bike, Handball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Judo, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Karate, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Kung Fu, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Modern Pentathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Soccer, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Softball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Table Tennis, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Triathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Volleyball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Weightlifting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Yachting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round.

Table of sports events for Saturday in Atlanta, including Canoeing, Archery, Badminton, Men's singles, Women's singles, Men's doubles, Women's doubles, Men's 500m kayak singles, Men's 1,000m Canadian singles, Men's 500m kayak fours, Men's 1,000m Canadian pairs, Cycling, Men's mountain bike, Women's mountain bike, Handball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Judo, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Karate, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Kung Fu, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Modern Pentathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Soccer, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Softball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Table Tennis, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Triathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Volleyball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Weightlifting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Yachting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round.

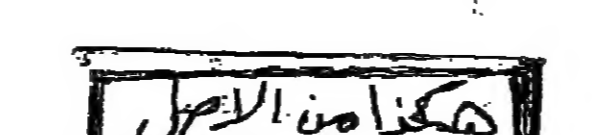
Table of sports events for Sunday in Atlanta, including Canoeing, Archery, Badminton, Men's singles, Women's singles, Men's doubles, Women's doubles, Men's 500m kayak singles, Men's 1,000m Canadian singles, Men's 500m kayak fours, Men's 1,000m Canadian pairs, Cycling, Men's mountain bike, Women's mountain bike, Handball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Judo, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Karate, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Kung Fu, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Modern Pentathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Soccer, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Softball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Table Tennis, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Triathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Volleyball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Weightlifting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Yachting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round.

Table of sports events for Monday in Atlanta, including Canoeing, Archery, Badminton, Men's singles, Women's singles, Men's doubles, Women's doubles, Men's 500m kayak singles, Men's 1,000m Canadian singles, Men's 500m kayak fours, Men's 1,000m Canadian pairs, Cycling, Men's mountain bike, Women's mountain bike, Handball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Judo, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Karate, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Kung Fu, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Modern Pentathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Soccer, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Softball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Table Tennis, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Triathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Volleyball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Weightlifting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Yachting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round.

Table of sports events for Tuesday in Atlanta, including Canoeing, Archery, Badminton, Men's singles, Women's singles, Men's doubles, Women's doubles, Men's 500m kayak singles, Men's 1,000m Canadian singles, Men's 500m kayak fours, Men's 1,000m Canadian pairs, Cycling, Men's mountain bike, Women's mountain bike, Handball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Judo, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Karate, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Kung Fu, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Modern Pentathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Soccer, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Softball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Table Tennis, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Triathlon, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Volleyball, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Weightlifting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round, Yachting, Men's preliminary round, Women's preliminary round.

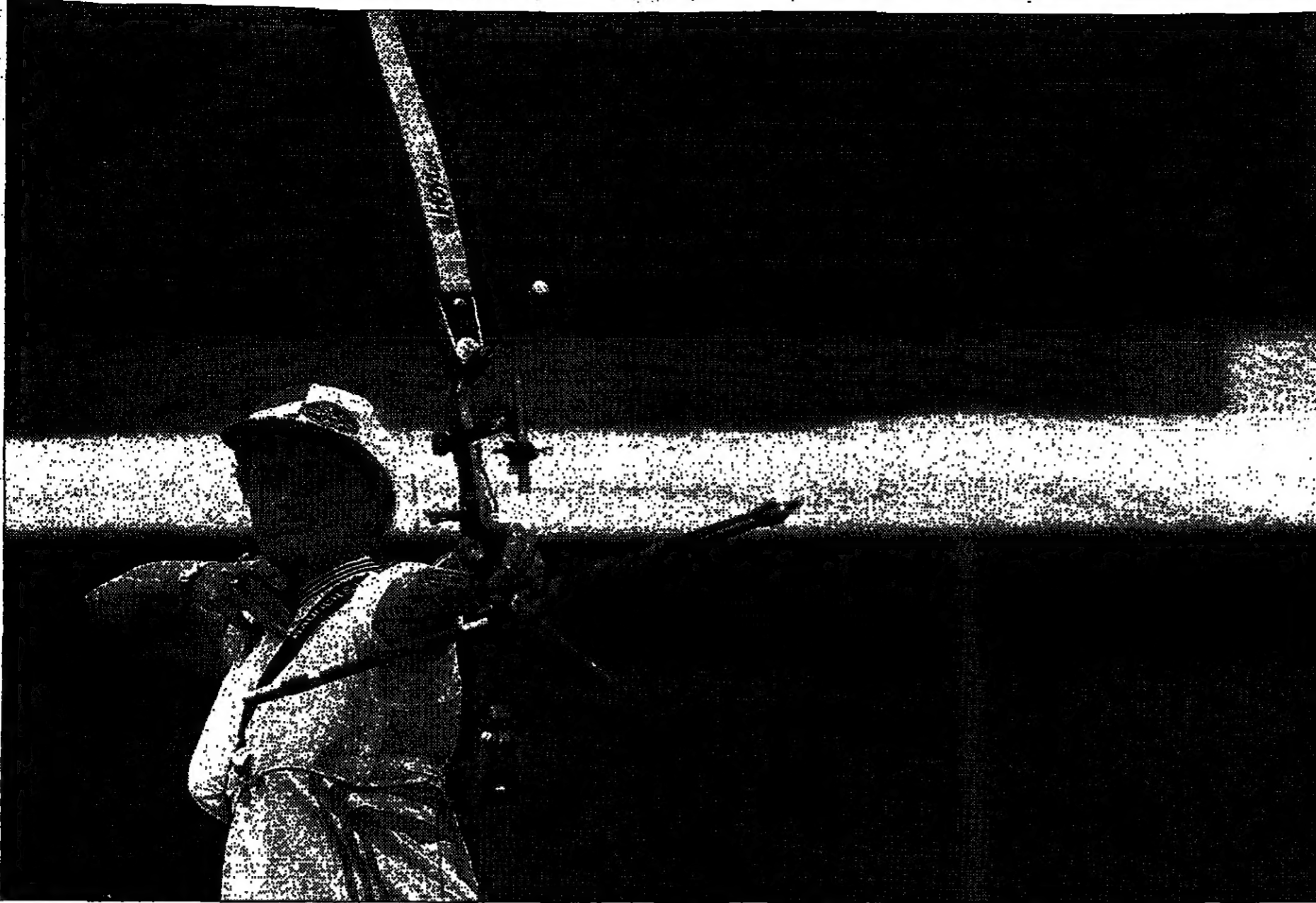


McMahon ... failed drug test



Frazier talk

OLYMPIC GAMES



British option pays Sciandri in bronze

Cycling

Martin Ayres

THE Anglo-Italian Max Sciandri finished third in yesterday's road race, earning Britain's first road racing medal for 40 years and vindicating his decision to opt for the British team last season after being cold-shouldered by the Italian selectors.

A three-man breakaway group was led home by Switzerland's Pascal Richard, who won the Tour de France in 1995. Denmark and Sciandri after 138 miles and almost five hours of racing.

"This is my greatest victory," said a tearful Richard. "I dedicate it to my family and my father. I did most of the work in the breakaway, and although the others were once my team-mates this is the Olympics and it is every man for himself."

The medal trio had sprinted clear of the leading group with 21 miles to go. They shared the pace-making, ensuring they stayed clear of a determined chasing group led home by the United States' Frankie Andreu, who crossed the line 12m 14sec back, just ahead of Richard Virenque, King of the Mountains in the Tour de France.

Derby-born Sciandri, aged 29, the son of an Italian restaurateur and English mother, was raised in Derby and Bournemouth. He now lives in Pistoia in Italy.

A stage winner in the Giro d'Italia and Tour de France, he has suffered a lean season, pulling out of the Tour with a knee injury, and his last big win was the Leeds World Cup Classic 12 months ago.

Frustrated after years of failing to get into the Italian squad, he took out a British racing licence in 1995 with Atlanta as his main target. He is currently seeking a new sponsor after the withdrawal at

the end of this year of the US-backed Motorola team.

Sciandri matched the initiative in the final sprint with 300 metres to go but was closely marked by Richard, who overtook him and crowned a brilliant season, which included victory on stage 12 of the Tour and a win in the Liège-Bastogne-Liège World Cup race.

While Sciandri sat up in despair Sorensen took the silver to add to his Tour stage win this year. "It was a very confused race," said Sciandri. "I really did not know what to do, and I was lucky to be in the leading group."

The last Briton to stand on the Olympic road race podium was the Londoner Alan Jackson, who took the bronze at Melbourne in 1956.

The action ignited after three hours when 12 riders broke clear of the 160-man peloton. They included Sciandri, who went clear in a three-man breakaway that was caught with four eight-mile laps to go.

Despite his earlier efforts, Sciandri still had sufficient strength to force the pace at the head of the new 12-man leading group and escape with the decisive move, which went with less than three laps remaining.

The field covered 17 laps of a rolling circuit, mainly through leafy suburban roads, apart from the start-and-finish area on a four-lane highway in Buchhead.

There was no major climb to provide a focal point for the race. The toughest section being a long drag through the finish line on Peach Tree Street.

The first Olympic road race to be contested under new open regulations saw inexperienced amateurs from Guatemala, Mongolia and Bermuda rubbing shoulders with such Tour heroes as Bjarne Riis and Miguel Indurain. A mass pile-up threatened in the early laps but apart from a minor six-man crash the race was free of mishaps.

TO ENLIVEN the search for another British medalist, there was no choice but to add the fall-safe ingredient: sex, writes David Hopps. Alison Williamson's pre-Olympic publicity had included a topless pose in Esquire magazine, bowstring drawn tastefully

across a nipple. An uncustomary way to stir a nation's sporting interest.

The photograph had the mood of those opening sequences in the old James Bond movies, when British charm and cool were sufficient to control the world. If only our gold medal tally

could have remained top secret.

Until Simon Terry won an individual bronze in Barcelona, the last famous British archer had been Eros; and judging by the high divorce rate, even his arrows are not as potent as they used to be.

Williamson failed to change the trend, losing in the last 16 to He Yang, of China, ranked second in the world.

"Aw, Gawd, you're not going to ask me about that photograph?" she said. "I'm an impulsive person and it sounded like a bit of

fun at the time. It certainly wasn't an attempt at attracting sponsorship. That whole subject makes me so angry; archery is an Olympic sport but it isn't even on the approved list for the new academy [of sport]."

Williamson, a quarter-finalist in Barcelona, ac-

cepted a sports scholarship at Arizona State University, and majored in social work, "because no one was offering the same opportunities in Britain."

Yesterday she shot respectably, but 165-169 told its own story: another British defeat.

Frazier takes bitter bit-part in a battle of ideals

Boxing

Peter Nichols

FOR FRAZIER still looked articulate with his fists. Introduced to the crowd at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum, the former world heavyweight champion bowed, tipped his Panama and shadow-boxed, just like he used to. It excited the loudest roar of the afternoon in the packed amphitheatre, which was no mean feat.

Backstage, Frazier was not so articulate. He was ostensibly there to promote the lightweight Terrance Cauthen, who fights out of the Frazier gym in Philadelphia. But Cauthen, who has reached the semi-finals, does not need a great deal of help in terms of self-publicity.

In the ring he is unrepentant, spending most of his time doing what Smokin' Joe did not do: avoiding the blows. He does not yet spend enough time throwing them, and unlike Frazier the 20-year-old talks better than he fights.

Frazier was the Olympic heavyweight champion in 1964 and the undisputed world champion from 1970 to 1973. In his 20 years as a boxer, including three famous fights with Muhammad Ali, he walked into some of the hardest blows in history, and it shows. He is apparently having a good day but his speech is still slurred and his concentration intermittent.

He is certain of just one thing: his view of Ali and his part in the opening ceremony. "I think it was a big slap in the face for boxing... There are men who have done more for America and more for boxing... He was a draft-dodger. If they'd had asked me, hell, I'd have run all the way up there and lit the flame... He's a lot of noise, lot of mouth," he went on.



Best of enemies... the Cuban boxer Juan Hernandez progresses to a middleweight semi-final. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

"Would you like your son to follow in that guy's footsteps? I did my job as a fighter. He tried to kill me, I killed him. If you listen to the things that the Lord says, I don't think the Lord of the Lord that touched him."

It was foolish, tasteless nonsense from a man shackled by the past, unable to live in the present. Loud as the cheer for Frazier in the auditorium was, it is the ageing and palled Ali who has the heart of the nation and the respect of a planet — not Smokin' Joe.

While all this was going on, across the way in the bearpit of an arena another Cuban, Juan Hernandez, was qualifying for a semi-final in the same manner that Frazier and Ali have suffered each other as enemies for 30 years, so the Americans and Cubans have hardly been the best of friends.

It does not matter that the hatred is preposterous, like a bull kicking a mouse. It does not matter that in every other sport (apart from Olympic baseball) the Americans over-

whelm Cuba. What matters to the Americans is that Cuba represents an idealised evil, a community that survives without capitalism.

And what also matters is that not since Leon Spinks defeated Sixto Scoria in the 1976 Olympic light-heavyweight final has an American boxer beaten a Cuban at the Olympics. Already in these Games, two boxers in the lowly rated US team have fallen to Cuban opponents.

"The arena, which rumbles whenever an American steps

into the ring, will positively growl if Nate Jones of the United States and the defending champion, Felix Savon of Cuba, win their semi-finals and meet in the heavyweight final. That would be the apex of the rivalry, in a tournament that could yet see six Cuban-US matches in all.

So far, the US successes have come out of the ring. The reigning Olympic bantamweight champion Joel Casamayor and the former light-middleweight amateur world champion Ramon Garbey

both defected from Cuba before the Games had started.

This week one of their coaches, Mariano Leva, joined them in leaving his country behind. Leva, who was here coaching the Mexican team, waited until the last of his boxers had been beaten in the tournament, then drove down with friends to Miami.

On Tuesday, as Leva was making his press statement in Florida, Casamayor and Garbey, who walked out of a Mexican training camp in late June, held a press conference in Atlanta to announce their new professional contracts.

Alongside them sat two former Cuban defectors, Diobelyn Hurtado and Mario Iribarren, and at the conference was a lawyer, Luis Decubas, whose "Team Freedom" organisation is supporting the Cuban defectors.

Casamayor and Garbey announced that they had signed contracts with the veteran trainer Lou Duva and his Main Events promotion company. "These guys are so advanced that they will be ready to fight for titles by their 10th or 12th professional fight," said Duva's son Dino.

The conference broke down in chaos, as these things are inclined to, when a Dominican promoter counter-claimed that he already had the boxers under contract. It was business as usual: welcome to America.

With only four days to go in the tournament, rumours still persist that Fidel Castro will pay a visit to a town where a pipe bomb is exploded in a crowded park to no apparent political purpose, the trip would seem to bear a considerable risk for Cuba's veteran president. In the bearpit they would go wild.

Or maybe not. Underneath his wildly patriotic skin, the Southerner is a profoundly polite animal. If Castro did make an entrance, the crowd might even applaud.

Irish distance runner tests positive after taking painkiller

Drugs

Duncan Mackay

AN IRISH runner, Marie McMahon, yesterday became the sixth competitor to test positive for drugs at the continental Games as the International Olympic Committee faced its first test of the special arbitration court established to hear appeals from suspended athletes.

McMahon, who came 14th in the heats of last Friday's 5,000 metres, tested positive after taking two banned painkillers for a leg injury, and now faces a three-month ban.

The 21-year-old McMahon, based at Providence University in Rhode Island, appears to be another athlete who has narrowly fallen foul of the sport's tough doping laws. "It was an entirely innocent mistake," she said. "I never believed I would test positive, otherwise I would never have taken them."

McMahon, who comes from Ennistymon in Co Clare, is the US national collegiate indoor 5,000 metres champion and finished 23rd in the world cross-country championships in Cape Town in March. She is only the second Irish athlete to fail a drugs test: the first, the long jumper Jonathan Kron, tested positive in 1994 for stimulants.

The Russians, meanwhile, are appealing to the Court of

Arbitration for Sport against the disqualification of their swimmer Andrei Korznev and Greco-Roman wrestler Zefar Guliyev, both for Broomantan. If the appeal fails, Britain's Nick Gillingham will be awarded the bronze medal in the 200 metres breaststroke.

Broomantan is so new to drug-testing circles that it does not appear by name on the IOC banned list, falling instead into a category of "relative substances". The Russians argue that the drug is neither a stimulant nor listed by the IOC so it should not be considered an offence to take it.

Drug testers admit that before these Games they had never before come across the drug. The only reference to Broomantan in any scientific journals have all appeared in Russian. The drug acts on the central nervous system, affecting the way the brain uses dopamine, a compound produced by the body. It reduces fatigue and helps the body tolerate high temperatures — a big boost in hot and humid Atlanta.

The IOC has also announced that the Lithuanian coach Boris Vasiliev has been banned from the Games and the team doctor Vitaly Sliuzarsenko excluded from all Olympic competitions or qualifying events until the 2000 Games in Sydney as punishment resulting from the case of the cyclist Rita Razmasite, disqualified after also testing positive for Broomantan.



AND IN THE FAST LANE IS THE ALFA 155 WITH ITS NEW 1.8 TWIN SPARK 16V 140BHP ENGINE. FROM £15,390 ON THE ROAD. ANOTHER GOLD FOR ITALY. CALL 0300 718 000 FOR YOUR NEAREST DEALER.

ALFA 155. ANOTHER OF MAN'S GREAT SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely a page number or reference code.

Sports Guardian

Golden shot for Henman and Broad

Tennis
Peter Nichols

NEIL BROAD and Tim Henman ensured a silver medal at least for Britain when they defeated the Germans Marc Goellner and David Prinosil 4-6, 6-3, 10-8 in their doubles semi-final at the Stone Mountain Centre.

"After two penalty shoot-outs I think we were owed one against the Germans," said Henman later, tongue firmly in cheek.

The 21-year-old arrived in Atlanta on a high after his rapturous Wimbledon fortnight only to be brought quickly down to earth in the singles by the Australian doubles specialist Todd Woodbridge.

"I was very disappointed," said Henman, "but I don't find it difficult to pick myself up."

That second-round exit at least allowed Henman to develop his partnership with Broad. The South African-born Broad's nerve proved vital in this match, but on court the signals and the calls are with Henman.

The Britons came to Atlanta with a solitary Davis Cup doubles behind them as the sum total of their experience together on court. They lost that first match, in Slovakia, but avenged it when they defeated the same opponents, Jan Krosak and Karol Kucera, in the first round here.

They then disposed of the No. 2 seeds, Canada's Grant Connell and Daniel Nestor, and the No. 5 seeds, the Czechs Jiri Novak and Dan Vacek. On paper Goellner and Prinosil should have been a comfortable ride.

Nevertheless it seemed that every Briton left in Atlanta had mustered at court-side in support and they raised a

chant so far unheard at these Games — "Gee-Bee, Gee-Bee". It was almost eerie and perhaps it unsettled Henman, for the Wimbledon quarter-finalist dropped serve to hand the Germans the first set and, on another muggy old day, ensure that they would have to sweat it out.

The match almost came to a premature ending in the first game of the second set with Broad 15-40 down on his service. But the partnership recovered to take the second set and move into an attritional third.

In fact it was so tightly balanced that not once was three points scored against the server until the set entered its 17th game, when two punched volleys from Broad gave the Britons a service break.

The 29-year-old Broad, whose Sunderland-born father enabled him to take up the option of a British passport in 1984, had only to hold his serve for the match. But from 30-0 up, he wavered on two points to bring the scores level.

"I was pretty nervous then, but Tim just told me to go for it," he said later. Broad took his partner at face value and rattled off two perfect aces to take the match.

"When you get your opportunities you've just got to take them," said Henman. "When we came out here maybe people didn't expect a medal, but we were hoping to get one. Hopefully, we can go a step further."

Tomorrow, they will play for the chance of gold. Victory would give them Britain's first Olympic tennis title since 1920. On the Stone Mountain that looms behind the courts, are carved the faces of Southern heroes: the generals Robert E Lee and Stonewall Jackson and the Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

If Henman and Broad win gold here, they deserve to go up there alongside them.



Stars and bikes... riders pass a huge American flag in yesterday's road race, an event in which Britain's Max Sciandri went on to win bronze. Report P15 PHOTOGRAPH LIONEL CRONIN/ALAMY

Ainslie still takes silver after mass disqualification

Sailing
Frank Keating

ANOTHER gold-medal chance was forfeited by Britain before even the race started yesterday when,

with eight others, the 19-year-old Cornish sailor Ben Ainslie was disqualified before the gun to begin the deciding Laser-class event on Wassaw Sound off Savannah. Ainslie had instead to settle for silver behind Brazil's Robert Scheidt and ahead of Peer Moberg of Norway. It was even more operati-

cally dramatic and confusing than Saturday night's command performance in the Atlanta stadium by Linford Christie. This time it was not a solo but a collective banishment and it took place on the far-away stage of a surging wind-chopped sea two miles off shore.

Matelote's telescopes are not provided in the press kit but it seems that after several false starts an exasperated jury hollered "enough" and slung nine boats from the race when they again transgressed by jumping the gun.

A black flag had been flown indicating that any premature starters identified would be disqualified from future starts. A large proportion of the 56 boats went over early and the race committee identified Ainslie and Scheidt among the others. This barred them from competing when the race was started on the fifth occasion.

Ainslie had had to beat the South American in this last of the 10-race series. Thus it was an especially highly charged, wave-churning contest as

the little boats milled and jostled and buzzed about the start line — no one jostling more than the Cornish boy.

To add to the tension Scheidt was on a yellow card — one more technical offence and he would be out of the race altogether. So Ainslie's legitimate harrying and teasing of the Brazilian's boat was a necessity.

Just as Christie had to on Saturday, Ainslie needed a flying start. He could not afford getting up the first beat and having Scheidt sitting in an armchair immediately behind him. The kid had to go for broke. He obviously pushed the jury too far. The Brazilian minded not a jot about the disqualification; it meant the gold was his.

Ainslie sailed to the stake boat wrecked with disappointment. Even the Greek zephyrs seemed to die down for a minute, to allow his sail implicitly to acknowledge the British sadness all round. But 19! Next serious stop Sydney Harbour 2000.

He said, after that, it would be great to go for a British

challenge in the America's Cup. Still his medal had a sheen to it all right. It has been a tremendous week for him and for British sailing all round.

Ainslie's father Rod may be a reasonably rich man as well as being in his own youth a fine long-haul sailor himself but his teenager's dramatic run along the Atlantic nevertheless underlines in boldy colourful crayon the way his sport has thrown off its century-old taint of being the sole preserve of the elite with the look.

The Royal Yachting Association policy for youth development is that fun must be offered to every child as a priority and then the competitive cream which wants to be serious can come to the top as a bonus.

The evidence of that philosophy is this very good team of youngsters putting in Britain's best all-round show at an Olympic regatta. Crucially there is strength in depth. Two years running Britain has won the Nautica Cup at the World Championships,

the competition of all six disciplines, three each for men and women.

That success has been built on firmly this week and it owes much to 49-year-old Jim Saltonstall, the Yorkshire-born former European champion, who has been a national coach since 1977 and responsible for developing the youth squad.

Almost every one of this Olympic team has been developed from his cadres of callow hopefuls. It is one thing to recognise talent, another to work with and develop it.

"We are an island of sports people," says Saltonstall. "So it is obvious a sailing talent is in our very national bones and psyche. The satisfaction has been trying to trigger it again and then develop it."

This is what has happened. In the last decade or so sailing has become broad-based and in so doing has buried once and for all its image of upper-class twittery at Cowes where the main object of the exercise seemed to be rum and jolly games under the Solent stars.

BECKSENTRICS

THE FRENCH HAVE FINALLY PERFECTED THE ART OF...
 EURO STAR OF THE WEEK
 THE VAILS

There's something distastefully voyeuristic about watching Dax Cowart's tortured body writing and hearing his cries of agony. Take the program out of its educational context and the screen presents a pornography of pain.

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

Guardian Crossword No 20,720
Set by Rufus

There's something distastefully voyeuristic about watching Dax Cowart's tortured body writing and hearing his cries of agony. Take the program out of its educational context and the screen presents a pornography of pain.

Online G2 page 12

Guardian Crossword No 20,720
Set by Rufus

1 Astute move for representation (5)
 4 Under treatment, impart personal depression (6)
 9 Me and mum work together (4)
 10 Supporters with lots of hard facts (5,5)
 11 A girl's knocked back in Greece (6)
 12 Palmistry manual? (5)
 13 They struggled to maintain faith in the past (5)
 18 Key to a sound performance (4)
 16 Staff employed in cooking (4)
 17 Pen and fold in an envelope (6)
 21 Start playing up after industrial action (6,2)
 22 A unique example of scoring 99 when aiming for a century (3-3)

24 Exciting experiences coming — sure to make trouble (10)
 25 Register to do work on the farm (4)
 26 Joint may be worn out (5)
 27 Buns untidy beards (5)

Down
 1 Earring found on the railway (7)
 2 Regard sailor with horror? Not half (5)
 3 Refuse for raising the railway subsidy (7)
 5 Mounting a revolt (5)
 6 Theatrical accounts? (5)
 7 Caricature in strip (4,3)
 8 Prince rather upset, having to accept a royal spouse (5,4)
 14 It's awful the silly way Grace lies (5)

16 He produces a pass when charged (7)
 18 Appear to understand an informal survey (4-3)
 19 Gentleman burglar held to raise money for charity (7)
 20 Produce nippers (5)
 23 Non-striking bonus (5)

Solution tomorrow

27 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0841 336 226. Calls cost 30p per min, cheap rates, 45p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT&T

سكنا من الاجل